

# HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, July 26, 2012

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## Schools out

Schoolchildren celebrate with awards and farewells

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## Flagging up

Beauty spots over the moon with accolades

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## High Varnish

Rider Jess will use natural talent for Olympic glory

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## Misery of roadworks for drivers in borough

MOTORISTS in Dudley are facing more traffic misery after another set of roadworks which will see streets closed for up to 16 weeks was announced.

Work to replace old gas and water pipes will be carried out in Pensnett with drivers being warned to expect delays. It follows the announcement of a £1million flood prevention scheme in Stallings Lane, Kingswinford which is also due to start the same day.

South Staffordshire Water and National Grid Gas are carrying out the work in Pensnett.

A one-way system will be in place in High Oak and traffic will only be able to enter from High Street.

On the weekend of August 11 and 12 and then from August 18 for around four weeks Broad Street will be closed from the junction with Commonside. There will be temporary traffic lights in Commonside on the junction with Tiled House Lane.

Further work will be carried out in the following weeks and details will be announced nearer the time.

Residents and businesses in the area have been contacted about the work by the council. Teg Chochan, manager of the Loaf sandwich bar in High Street, said he was worried about the effect the roadworks will have on delivery times.

"I think it's going to have a huge impact on the business."

• Traders – page 2

## Closure of two cafes

Two cafes at Merry Hill shopping centre in Dudley have closed.

The Cafe Giardino outlets, which were part of a national chain, shut as a result of the operating company Town Centre Restaurants going into administration. It is not known how many jobs were lost as a result of the closures. Centre owners Westfield declined to comment.

# HOMES PLAN FOR FIRE STATION SITE

by Heather Large

**HALESOWEN Fire Station could be demolished and replaced with 22 new homes if planning permission is granted for the scheme. The station shut in April despite a public campaign to save it from closure.**

It followed the merger of Halesowen and Cradley Heath fire stations and the axing of one of the two 24-hour crews. The decision followed in the wake of the fire service being hit with £10 million in government funding cuts between 2011 and 2013.

Now fire chiefs are seeking planning permission for the housing development ahead of putting the building on the market.

A new £3million fire station serving both Halesowen and Cradley Heath will be built on the site of former municipal buildings in Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath.

Firefighters based in Halesowen have been redeployed to other stations in the area until new fire hub opens.

West Midlands Fire Service has submitted a planning application for new homes on the site of old Halesowen station.

The proposals are for a mix of two and three bedroom homes, a report by agent Rob Duncan says.

### Character

"It is anticipated that they will be of typical brick and tile construction to reflect the established character of the wider residential area," he adds.

The Cradley Heath station will also be sold off to help make £1.5m from the sale of the two sites.

Campaigners had battled to save the Halesowen station but the costs of the legal battle proved too heavy for them to continue the fight.

They would have needed to find up to £60,000 to fund a planned judicial review.

One of their main concerns was they feared the merger would leave the area poorly protected in an emergency.

In 2010-11, Halesowen attended about 535 incidents.

Cradley Heath firefighters went out to about 1,000.

The Cradley Heath station will also be sold off to help make £1.5m from the sale of the two sites.

Campaigners had battled to save the Halesowen station but the costs of the legal battle proved too heavy for them.

## Tributes paid as former deputy mayor Jeff dies

TRIBUTES have been paid to a former deputy mayor of Dudley who has died after a short battle with cancer. Retired metal polisher Jeff Jewkes served on Dudley Council, for the Gorsey ward, between 1990 and 2002.

During his time on the authority, he was chairman of the select committee for culture and regeneration.

He was also vice-chairman of the personnel, policy and leisure committees. Mr Jewkes, who worked at GKN in Bilston, was appointed deputy mayor of Dudley in 2001. He died at Russells Hall Hospital after being diagnosed with terminal cancer six weeks ago. He was 70.

Friend and Labour Party colleague Councillor Ken Finch said Mr Jewkes had "always given 100 per cent" when representing residents in Gornal.

"Jeff was a very good friend of mine, and I had known him a long time. He was a very devoted councillor and member of the Labour Party," he said.

"We could always rely on Jeff to give 100 per cent support, whatever the cause."

Dudley North MP Ian Austin also praised Mr Jewkes's service, saying: "We're all very upset by the terrible news."



Jeff Jewkes

## Wartime relived at museum



Left to right: Mike Fletcher from Kidderminster, Malcolm Broadhurst from Droitwich, Leonard Warrington from Cookley and Darren Williams from Oldbury



The D-Day Darlings at the Black Country Living Museum's 1940s wartime event

There were members of the Home Guard on patrol, wartime singalongs to keep spirits high and air raid sirens cutting through the evening sky in Dudley.

Visitors were given a flavour of life during the Second World War at the Black Country Living Museum. Military vehicles were on the streets, propaganda posters adorned lamp posts and roadblocks complete with sandbags and warning signs were in place.

Hundreds arrived for the 1940s theme night at the weekend, many dressed in period outfit.

Wartime performer Kevin Mac serenaded crowds gathered at Folkes' Park while singing trio D-Day Darlings performed traditional songs in the Workers' Institute building.

They were joined by dancers Valerie and Gareth Boxley, from Cradley Heath, who delighted the crowds with their routine including the jitterbug. Authentic vehicles and motorbikes were also on display.

## 'Chuggers' facing a borough crackdown

CHARITY collectors in Dudley face a crackdown on when and where they can work in an attempt to stop them pestering shoppers.

The so-called charity muggers or "chuggers" line the streets in towns across the borough and in particular Dudley Market Place.

Dudley Council ruled last year that they should carry a licence but they insist the law does not apply to them as they do not collect cash.

The Public Fundraising Regulatory Authority has offered to hold talks with the council to reach a voluntary agreement similar to Wolverhampton, where collectors are limited to certain streets.

Council bosses insist a review by Lord Hodgson has shown tighter controls are needed and that the chuggers should be licensed.

The report, published last week, recommended greater powers for councils to curb aggressive collectors. Dudley Council will now look at the recommendations before deciding whether to enforce stricter working times.

PFRA spokeswoman Catherine Pusey agreed Lord Hodgson said there was a need to restrict or regulate fundraising, and that the group was already in talks with 19 councils.

"We would welcome the authority with open arms," she added. Councillor Gaye Partridge, said: "We will carefully consider the recommendations."

## Police plea on teenager

Police have appealed for information about a teenager from Dudley who has been missing for almost three weeks.

Ben Rollison, aged 15, was last seen at around 9am on July 3 at his home in the Russells Hall area.

Police officers said the teenager had been missing several times before but this was the longest period that he had been away from home.

Anyone who has seen the teenager or knows of his whereabouts can call 101.

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# New cash gives boost to town funds

A MULTI-MILLION pound revamp of historic buildings in Dudley has been boosted after new funding was secured.

Some of the cash will be spent on repairs and the restoration of rundown shopfronts and buildings.

Money will also be spent on work to bring derelict sites of architectural interest back into use. Some £229,000 of European cash will go to the ongoing Townscape Heritage

Initiative, which is aimed at boosting Dudley's prosperity by attracting businesses and creating jobs.

The rest of the money is coming from the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage, the Housing and Communities Agency and Dudley Council.

Fears were raised nearly two years ago that the project would not go ahead when £2.15m funding from the regional development agency

Advantage West Midlands fell through. But council chiefs say it is back on track - and they will decide in the coming weeks which buildings to spend the money on.

They say they will look at "gateway" buildings, having already revamped the former Crown pub in Wolverhampton Street, Baylies Hall in Tower Street and the old Ace Disk shop at the top of High Street. Councillor Shaukat Ali, said:

"Securing this funding will ensure more excellent work through the Townscape Heritage Initiative can be carried out."

Norman Price, deputy chairman of the West Midlands European Regional Development Fund local management committee said: "To improve the overall performance of an area and its economy you have to get the foundations right."

"This project does just that."

# Facebook post was used for burglary

A HOUSE was burgled after a 14-year-old said on Facebook she was going away for the weekend, a judge was told.

The inadvertently tipped off a burglar by posting the comment on Facebook, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Serial thief, Ashley Byrd, who spotted the entry, knew where the teenager lived, Mr Mark Rees, prosecuting, said. The 19-year-old went to the address in Wythall Road, Halesowen, on June 23. After checking no-one was home he threw a brick through a window, Mr Rees said. Byrd, who had two previous convictions for burglary, stole two laptops worth about £800 but police had been alerted by a neighbour, Mr Rees added.

Officers arrived soon afterwards and arrested the burglar, who had also caused £350 damage to the house, the court heard. The culprits were recovered.

Mr Jasvir Mann, defending, told the court Byrd had been blighted by a drug problem. Byrd, from Gibbs Road, Lye, admitted burglary and was sent to a Young Offenders Institution for two years and five months.

# Electrical goods theft

LAPTOPS and electronic gadgets worth nearly £3,000 were stolen during a day-time burglary.

Thieves broke into the property, in Station Drive, Hagley, and stole an Apple Mac Air laptop worth £800, a Mac Book Pro worth £800, a silver iPod worth £100, a black Sony SLR camera worth £400, a Sony PlayStation 3 worth £300, a Sony controller worth £100, six PlayStation games worth £40 each and a TomTom sat nav system worth £100.

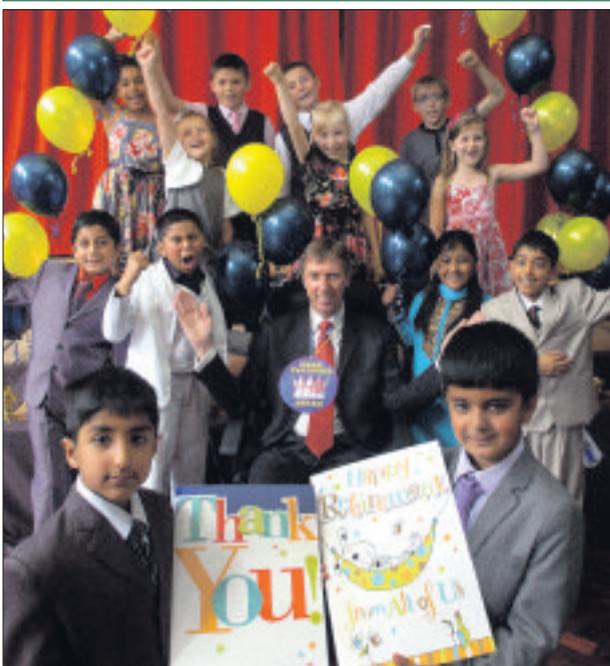
Witnesses can contact officers on 0300 333 3000 quoting 387-S-160712.

# Police on twitter

PEOPLE in Stourbridge and Halesowen have a new way to keep in touch with local police.

New sector Inspector Dez Lambert has launched a Twitter feed, providing updates on police work in the area. The social network tool also gives the public the chance to message officers.

# Big send off for headteacher



Headteacher Clive Danks on his final day at Sledmere Primary School, Dudley

STYLISH students dressed in their finest suits and dresses to bid farewell to one of Dudley's longest-serving headteachers.

They decided to dress up in honour of Clive Danks, who retired after 23 years at Sledmere Primary School.

The 59-year-old was given a rousing send-off with a singalong during his final assembly. They also gave him presents and cards and his own special headteacher's badge.

"The staff here have been absolutely brilliant, and it has been a pleasure to work with them and the governors, while also being given such great support by parents," he said. "It has been a highlight for me to see the children grow over the years and getting to work with them every day."

Mr Danks, who lives in Hagley, is planning to spend more time with his wife Linda and his two children.

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## Residents fighting closure

RESIDENTS will form a committee intending to force council officials and police to rethink the closure of a busy commuter road in Dudley.

They say Dudley Council failed to consult people living in side roads off Blackacre Road before installing barriers and no-entry signs stopping motorists using the street.

It was standing room only at a public meeting hastily convened after more than 400 people signed a petition demanding action.

Those attending the meeting agreed to form a committee to take their concerns to ward councillors and council traffic officer Peter Vangeraasdeale.

Around 80 people packed into the Buffery Paradise Centre, Buffery Park, to air their views.

Among them was resident Duncan Petford, who chaired the meeting, after becoming frustrated with the traffic problems following the closure last month.

The 50-year-old, who has lived in Rollason Road for 25 years, said: "We wanted to give people the opportunity to get their point across as it was so important to hear everyone's views."

Shedden Road resident Satnam Bhogal added: "It has been absolute chaos since they brought in all these signs."

## Probe over yard death

THE DEATH of a man at a metal recycling yard is still being investigated by The Health and Safety Executive.

Mark Shore, aged 42, died at an industrial yard at R Davies Metals, Smithy Lane, Dudley, on June 19.

Health and Safety Executive spokesman Helen Clarke said his death was still being investigated and a report was being compiled for a coroner.

No-one from R Davies Metals would comment following the death of Mr Shore last month.

## Plans approved

OUTLINE plans for 14 homes in Stourbridge have been approved despite opposition from residents.

Palace Furniture Ltd wants to build the houses off High Street, Wollaston. The company will next submit more detailed plans before the scheme can go ahead.

# Hospital chief in apology to Owen's parents



Owen Jeremy

THE CHIEF executive of Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital has apologised to the grief-stricken parents of an eight-year-old boy for the way staff treated them after his sudden death.

David and Rowena Jeremy say they had no support from staff at the hospital to guide them through the process when he died after an asthma attack.

They were even left to look for a telephone number so they could call a taxi to go home. The couple

attended a release of balloons in memory of Owen by pupils in his year at Fairhaven Primary School, Wordsley last week.

A total of 300 balloons, each carrying a message from a youngster and a photograph of Owen, were released during the day – and coaches from Owen's favourite team, Aston Villa, held sessions with pupils as a tribute to him.

Owen died at the hospital on May 24 when he suffered a cardiac arrest soon after being given

adrenaline. His parents, of Primrose Hill, Wordsley, have withdrawn a complaint about Owen's treatment, in which they challenged a decision to give him adrenaline even though his heart was racing.

### Upset

The couple were upset after they found staff had not removed medical tubes from Owen's body when they went to say their final farewell to him four hours after his death. Paula Clark, chief executive

of The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, says in a letter she is "extremely sorry" that a rapid response team meant to give information to bereaved parents did not contact them.

She adds: "In future staff have been asked to arrange a local taxi for bereaved relatives to get home safely, if no-one is available to collect them from the hospital."

She also apologised for the "additional distress" caused by a failure to remove Owen's tubes.

# Schoolchildren celebrate as summer break is here



Nursery nurse Victoria Smith with children during her last day at Belle Vue Primary School, Wordsley



Teyla Clarke, Issac McLeod and Henry Jones, all aged five, enjoy graduation at Halesowen Olive Hill Primary



Artist Laura Hickman with pupils from Bromley Pensnett Primary School showing their work

**SCHOOLCHILDREN** in Dudley wore fancy dress to say goodbye to a nursery nurse who was leaving after 17 years while youngsters in Halesowen graduated from their reception class and marked the end of the school term.

Pupils at Belle Vue Primary School held a celebration day to bid a fond farewell to Victoria Smith who was moving to another school.

Mrs Smith, aged 45, said she was sad to leave but felt it was the right time after her wage was reduced following a pay review by the council.

Mrs Smith, who lives in Dudley, had worked a total of 25 years as a

nursery nurse in the area, spending time at Dudley Wood Primary and The Glynne Primary, Kingswinford, before coming to Belle Vue.

### Border

She has now found a new job as a nursery nurse at St John's Primary, Swindon, just over the border into Staffordshire, where pay for the role has not been cut.

Mrs Smith said: "I've built a

strong bond with the children and their families. It's a fantastic school." Parents said they were very sad to see her go.

Meanwhile proud parents looked on as five-year-olds at Olive Hill Primary, in Halesowen,

enjoyed their own graduation ceremony. They were celebrating moving up to Year 1 and were presented with a commemorative scroll by headteacher Rachel Cutting. Parents were invited to

come along and watch the presentation and there was also a performance by the school choir.

Also pupils at Bromley Pensnett Primary School have celebrated the end of term by unveiling special artwork.

The school was visited by artist Laura Hickman after it won the Dudley Healthy Schools and the Dudley Association of Governing Bodies, Healthy Lifestyle competition.

## NEWS in brief

### Choir is backing theatre campaign

A POPULAR choir will get behind a campaign to develop a community-run theatre and hall at Stourport Civic Centre at its latest concert.

Kidderminster Male Choir will perform at the venue on August 4 at 7.30pm.

Wyre Forest District Council is due to move out of the centre later this year to headquarters on Finepoint Business Park off Stourport Road, Kidderminster. Tickets are £8. For details visit [www.the-civicstourport.co.uk](http://www.the-civicstourport.co.uk)

### Police are probing link in car thefts

POLICE are looking at possible links between two car thefts in Stourport.

A Volkswagen Scirocco was stolen from an address in Hanstone Road recently. The registration of the vehicle is OY10 RUH.

A blue BMW, registration C8 MLO, was taken from the roadside in Wesley Avenue.

Det Sgt Marc Sanders, of West Mercia Police, said officers were looking into whether the thefts are linked.

Witnesses can call Mr Sanders on 0300 333 3000.

### Polls venues views sought

Residents in Wyre Forest are being asked for their views on proposed changes to polling places in the district. The council wants to find new venues.

People have until 5pm on August 31 to submit their comments, which can be sent by post to: Electoral Registration Office, Wyre Forest District Council, Civic Centre, Stourport, Worcester-shire, DY13 8UJ.

### Burglars steal car from drive

THIEVES used tools from a shed to break into a house and steal a car in Hagley.

They broke into the house in Lodge Crescent and stole the keys to a black Mercedes C350 parked on the drive.

Two men were seen by a neighbour driving it away. PC Ed Banks urged residents to make sure all tools were locked up.

### Police patrolling

PLAIN-CLOTHED police are patrolling Sedgley neighbourhood to catch anti-social youngsters after complaints of teenagers using bad language in The Quadrant.

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## NEWS

**THE BEST  
OF PETER  
RHODES**

IT WAS announced this week that texting has overtaken speaking as the preferred means of mobile-phone communication. But it is important to get the texting right. A friend sent her child a text explaining that she had been delayed, and added an X as a kiss. The youngster was puzzled to receive the message: "May be a bit late."

□□□□□□□

**TONY Blair**, seemingly bemused even to be asked the question, proudly declared that New Labour had no population policy. Today the Office for National Statistics reveals the legacy of that idiocy, with three million more mouths to feed in England and Wales than 10 years ago. The Blairs (four children, £20 million a year) live far away from the seething bedlam of our inner cities, in their mansion in leafy Buckinghamshire. And now he wants to make a political comeback.

□□□□□□□

TRADITIONALLY, of course, we Brits did not bother with sun creams. We 1950s kids were allowed to muck around the beach until we were as red as lobsters and then anointed at night with chilled calamine lotion. We didn't have a Human Rights Act back then.

□□□□□□□

I REFERRED recently to the horrors of seasickness. A reader says he has discovered the perfect, 100 per cent guaranteed cure. Stand under a big tree.

□□□□□□□

EXCEPT that we Brits don't do unconfined joy very well, do we? No sooner has the mercury started to rise than the doom-mongers are predicting a sudden rise in the price of sun cream. Oh, gloom and misery.

□□□□□□□

FOLLOWING my recent bits on the strange names of emulsion paints, a reader asks: "What colour is a whiter shade of pale?" I think it's a sort of Procol.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes  
every Monday to Friday in  
your Express & Star**

# Major scheme for town hits a chord with folk

MORE than 700 people turned out to give their views on a multi-million pound regeneration scheme in the heart of Dudley – with the scheme finding favour with many residents.

Experts were on hand at the town's Churchill Precinct to talk people through plans developed by property firm Averbury for the largely derelict Porters Field site, including the long disused Cavendish House.

Many residents who stopped to look at the plans during the exhibition on Friday and Saturday said they were in favour of such a development and that work to regenerate that section of the town was long overdue.

Proposals drawn up would see the boarded-up Cavendish House building demolished and replaced with an 800,000sq ft supermarket.

A restaurant and other leisure facilities are also planned.

Additional space at the site, which would be called Porters Field, would be created by rerouting existing Trindle Road to bring it parallel with Duncan Edwards Way. If successful the scheme would create around 500 jobs in the town.

Leroy Holness, aged 58, of Dudley, said: "We need something to bring some life back into the heart of the town."

Patrick Nicholas, aged 48, of Junction Street, Dudley, said: "The town has been in decline for too long."



Leroy Holness and Patrick Nicholas, of Dudley, talk over the plans for part of Dudley town centre with Louise Moorhouse, from architect David Weatherill Partnership



An early drawing of how the development could eventually end up looking

## Man sent to jail for attacking teenager

A MAN hit a Halesowen teenager in the face and on the head with a can of lager after she stepped in to stop his friend using racist language to a group of youths.

Michael Beesley was jailed for nine months by Wolverhampton Crown Court for inflicting "some unpleasant injuries" on the girl.

The court was told the teenager had been in Halesowen town centre when she saw Beesley and the woman he was with abusing the young man.

Mr Bernard Linnemann, prosecuting, said the teenager had said it was wrong and had then been told to mind her own business before being hit with the can of lager by Beesley. He also punched her.

The teenager suffered swelling and cuts and had been left upset by the incident, the court was told.

Beesley, of Park Road, Hockley, admitted assault causing actual bodily harm.

Mr Malcolm Fowler, defending, said Beesley had an alcohol problem.

## Super heroes call

THE MIDLANDS Air Ambulance wants people to dress as superheroes for a national campaign.

To mark National Air Ambulance Week from September 24 to 30, the charity in Brierley Hill wants fundraisers to donate £1 to dress up.

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## NEWS in brief

**Mayor officiates at hall reopening**  
THE MAYOR of Dudley has opened a refurbished church hall in Stourbridge.

Councillor Melvyn Mottram was invited to Holy Trinity Amblecote, Vicarage Road to celebrate the completion of work on the hall.

During the past five years the hall has been transformed and now has a large hall, smaller meeting room, a stage, kitchen and toilet facilities all were newly refurbished with cash help from the Big Lottery Fund and Stourbridge Area Committee grant schemes.

### Music and jokes from sports club

A FEAST of comedy and music is coming to Wyre Forest in a one-night show later this month.

The event will feature top Midlands funny man Doug Parker and singer Maggie O'Hara. The duo will perform in a cabaret night at the Chester Road Sports and Social Club at Kidderminster Victoria cricket ground on July 27 at 7.30pm.

Tickets, £9 including a buffet, from the club.

### Awards event

AN AWARDS ceremony recognising the achievement of students at six schools has been held at Halesowen college.

The college hosted the awards event for pupils from Brier, Penn, Meadow, St Michael's, Halesbury, Westminster and Cherry Tree Schools.

## £2m to be shared by sport sites

Athletes and schoolchildren are among hundreds of people in the Black Country who will benefit from a slice of nearly £2 million of Olympic legacy funding.

Six community sports projects in the region are among the 38 in the West Midlands which will get part of the £1,981,540 investment from the Inspired Facilities Fund – part of the Places People Play programme.

George Slater Collegiate Academy, Claypit Lane, West Bromwich, will get £129,227 for an upgrade of facilities.

Bewdley Rowing Club, in Riverside North, Bewdley, Worcestershire, will get £50,000 for refurbishment of its changing rooms, showers and toilets, plus the building of a new classroom.

Dudley Waters Sports Centre, at Lodge Farm Reservoir, Highbridge Road, will also get £50,000 to replace its changing rooms, showers and toilets, plus the building of a new classroom.

Wyre Forest District Council will be given £50,000 for new floodlighting at its race track for Wyre Forest Cycle Racing Club in Pearl Lane, Stourport.

Samurai Judo Club, in Zorzetti Avenue, Kidderminster, will benefit from £40,706.

### Students help

EIGHTEEN Halesowen College students have raised £280 for The Friends of Chernobyl's Children Charity by completing a sponsored walk. The students walked five miles from the college to the Merry Hill Centre in Dudley.

# Widow launches legal fight as inquest leaves questions



Robert Collett, aged 62

THE distraught widow of a Halesowen man who died from heart failure following knee replacement surgery has told how an inquest into his death has left her with unanswered questions.

Angela Collett, aged 52, wept at the conclusion of the hearing at Birmingham Coroners Court into the death of her husband Robert. Mr Collett, a 62-year-old part-time driver, of Blagdon Road, had elected to have knee surgery at the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital, Birmingham, in February last year.

In summing up the case, coroner for Birmingham and Solihull, Aldan Cotter said Mr Collett felt chest pain soon after he was anaesthetised.

Later in the operation, Mr Collett said the patient was coughing and an anaesthetist diagnosed him with fluid on the lungs.

The coroner said: "The anaesthetist decided the operation should proceed although the surgeon twice asked if surgery should continue."

Shortly after the operation, Mr Collett appeared ashen so was immediately transferred to a bed and put in a sitting position.

#### Surgery

He then suffered a heart attack and was taken to intensive care at Birmingham City Hospital but died.

Mr Collett last week recorded a verdict of death following elective surgery. Mrs Collett had been a clinical nurse specialist at the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital but has now left and is launching a legal battle.

She said: "Despite the inquest I still have questions about why the surgery went ahead in the first place when Robert was showing clear signs of being unwell before and during the operation."

Lindsey Webb, director of nursing and governance at the hospital and Graham Bragg, deputy chief executive, issued a joint statement offering their "sincere condolences" to the family.

## Hotel plans approved

PLANS for a 63-bed hotel for Dudley, which will create 25 jobs, have been given the go-ahead by council chiefs.

The £3.5 million Premier Inn will open in Castlegate Business Park before autumn next year. It will have parking spaces for 65 cars and a restaurant. The building now has planning permission from Dudley Council.

Bosses at the hotel chain say the building will bring a boost for businesses and tourism.

John Bates, head of acquisitions for Premier Inn owners Whitbread Hotels and Restaurants, previously said: "Castlegate Business Park is an ideal location for a new Premier Inn in the Black Country, with great road access."

The development will be built on land owned by the Homes and Communities Agency. The scheme by commercial property developer Stoford will also comprise car parking and an unnamed restaurant.

No objections were lodged about the hotel scheme from the highways department.

## Winston steams back home



David Eveleigh, director of collections with the Winston Churchill 0-6-0 loco

AN ICONIC steam engine has been returned to the Black Country Living Museum to take pride of place at the entrance to the attraction.

The Winston Churchill locomotive had been out on loan since 1977 but has now been installed at the museum as a reminder of the region's railway heritage.

Director of collections David Eveleigh is now appealing for memories and old photographs of the 19-ton 0-6-0 engine. "The locomotive stands outside the entrance as a reminder of the former importance of the railway network to the Black Country," he said. The steam engine was built in 1923 by Manning Wardle of Leeds and was brought to the Black Country to be used at the Shutt End Colliery site in Pensnett 23 years later.

Curators at the museum believe it was last steamed in 1968.

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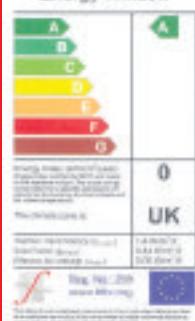
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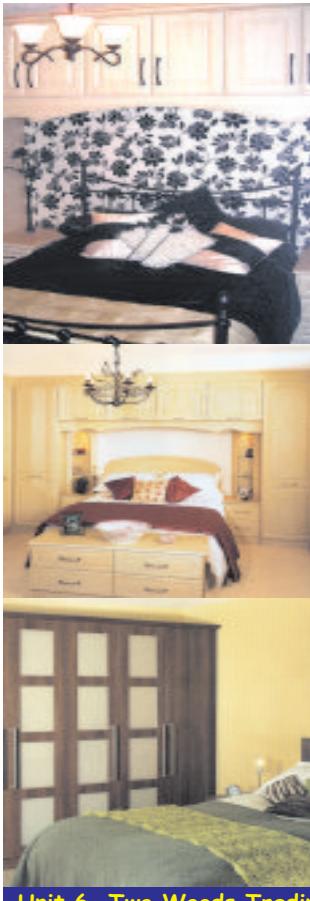
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## NEWS

# Awards mark borough beauty spots among best

THREE beauty spots in the Dudley Borough are among dozens in the region which have earned the national Green Flag Award.

More than 1,400 UK sites received the Green Flag accolade including Silver Jubilee Park, Coseley, Netherton Park and The Leasowes, Halesowen. While the Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Gardens in Bewdley has also been honoured, retaining its Green Flag this year.

Outdoor gyms, increased visitor numbers and the park ranger service helped Silver Jubilee Park and Netherton Park to gain the award.

While judges visiting the Leasowes were impressed by the restoration of the historic landscape and the management of the site for wildlife by the countryside wardens and volunteers.

Councillor Tracy Wood, said: "Dudley Council takes great pride in offering fantastic green spaces and we know our residents value them highly. "Achieving Green Flag status reflects the fantastic work our park rangers, countryside wardens, friends groups, volunteers and residents have put into making our green spaces shine and I'm grateful to everyone who has played a part in it."

Sites in Staffordshire including Baggeridge Country Park near Dudley and Wom Brook Walk, Wombourne, were also honoured.

A number of community-run sites in the region have also been decorated. Barnford and Farm Road Allotments, Rowley Regis has taken the honour along with the Dingley Road Allotment, Tipton.

### Cash raised for lifeboats

COLLECTIONS in two Black Country towns raised more than £1,600 for the RNLI. The collection in Kingswinford raised £626.34 and the one in Sedgley generated £975.24.

They were organised by the charity's Brierley Hill & Kingswinford branch.



Celebrations for Jenny Barlow and Liz Stiffins, back, of the park development team, Councillor Tracy Wood, Friends of Jubilee Park chairman Lawrence Hill, countryside manager Dave Keeley, and The Leasowes warden Ewan Chapman

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## LETTERS

# Science has a great deal to offer

Re: a recent letter "An ungodly cost in the name of science".

The idea that the pioneering work being done at Cern is a waste of money is simply preposterous.

The discovery of the Higgs boson is one of the greatest scientific achievements of our lifetime and grants us all a deeper understanding of how our universe works.

Science has been dismissed by some throughout the ages as something only relevant to a select few.

For example, when electricity was discovered there were those who dismissed it as a mere intellectual curios-

ity, but just look at how reliant our world has become on that advance.

In addition, there are countless examples of important developments occurring as a by-product of investment in science. The world wide web itself was created at Cern, as a means of sharing information between scientists.

On the question of cost, this project is actually much less expensive than is commonly thought, with a budget comparable to a mid-sized European university, a small price to pay for an organisation that has contributed so much. The scientists working at the

Large Hadron Collider have already added greatly to the sum of human knowledge and will continue to do so for many years to come. They have demonstrated that when the peoples of Europe come together to work for a common goal, the result can be something to be truly proud of.

For those interested in reading about what the Higgs boson is and why it is important, here is a link to my science blog on this topic: <http://tiny.cc/2plhw>.

THOMAS ROBERTS,  
University of Birmingham  
Lakeside Court  
LakesideBrierley Hill

## What's gone wrong with the unions in the UK?

JUST what is it with our unions in this country?

On the very eve of the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games the Border staff manning all the entry points into the UK announce their intention to go on strike.

In conjunction with this we are told the train drivers plan to strike for two days during the course of the Olympics, can someone enlighten me?

Is it a pre-requisite to joining a union that one has to undergo brain surgery, possibly involving a partial lobotomy, in order to restrict the full utilisation of the brain. Is it the unions avowed intention to totally wreck what little credibility that this once great country of ours has managed to salvage over recent years?

B PARSONS  
Coseley

## LETTERS to the Editor

### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial, 51-53  
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WV1 1ES

### E-MAIL

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expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

## Older people have done their fair share

TORY MP and "close ally" of David Cameron, Nick Boles, is suggesting that "older people must shoulder their fair share of spending cuts" and is advocating that better off pensioners lose their bus travel concessions and free prescriptions and their winter fuel payments means tested.

Having worked full time and paid full tax and National Insurance contributions for 46 years, I consider that I've already shouldered more than my "fair share", as have millions of others of my generation, only to see the money we've paid in squandered by successive useless Tory and Labour governments.

Can I suggest to Nick Boles, David Cameron and anyone else of the same mind that, before hammering the pensioners and those who continue to pay their way with hard work, they stop paying benefits to immigrants, the workshy and those who breed for a living. I also suggest that all foreign aid payments be stopped and that we stop wasting the multi-millions of pounds our membership of the EU cost us daily.

MR R A SARGEANT, Rosland Estate, Dudley

## Deeper search to uncover Landons

I HAVE a substantial amount of information relating to my Landon family and can trace our roots back to the 16th century, and am wondering if readers can help me with any more details.

It seems the family originated in Herefordshire mainly centred on the village of Credenhill and nearby locations.

There is a William Landon born 1755 and died in 1833 being buried in Church Eaton (Staffs) graveyard. The headstone still stands and just about reads "gardener at Little Onn Hall" (Staffs).

If anyone has any information on Landons especially William Landon of Little Onn Hall I would be pleased to hear from them.

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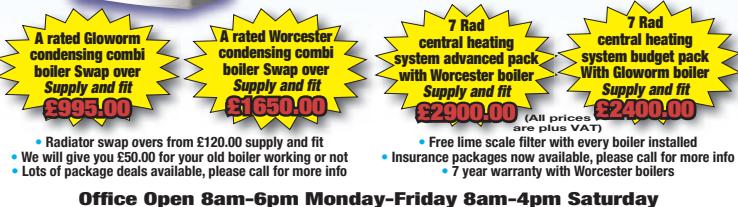
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## NEWS

# £1m flood prevention scheme to close roads

## Officers raise coppers



ONE of Dudley's busiest roads has closed for six weeks for a £1 million flood prevention scheme to be carried out.

A section of Stallings Lane, Kingswinford, has been cut off to traffic while new sewer pipes are installed and for construction of a large underground flood storage tank in Broadmeadow.

The closure will run from Charterfield Drive to the entrance to the industrial estate further up the road.

A short length of Ham Lane will also be closed off for sewer pipes to be installed.

Dudley Council is working with Severn Trent Water, South Staffordshire Water, IWS and Enterprise on the scheme which is due to finish in early September.

The work is being carried out to prevent serious flooding in Stallings Lane and Hinsford Close. There have been problems along the roads recorded in 2002, 2005, 2007 and 2009.

Council officials said they would try to minimise disruption and had planned the work for the school summer holidays when the road is less busy.

But they admitted some inconvenience would be inevitable and said some residents may experience disruption to their water supply during the project.

A diversion has been set up via Tansey Green Road, Dreadnought Road, High Street and Moss Grove which will add around a mile to journeys.

Council bosses said businesses along the route would be open as usual and access to commercial and domestic properties would be maintained throughout.

### Vintage rally rained off

A VINTAGE vehicles rally in Bewdley that attracts thousands has been cancelled due to the bad weather.

The Trimley Steam and Vintage Rally was due to take place at Bite Farm on August 5. But organisers have now been forced to cancel.

Charity cyclists John Link, Bev McCabe, Keith Scott, Omar Sharif and Paul Davies with, front, Tristram Oliver and David Grove with the cheque. EIGHT police officers from Dudley have raised more than £5,700 for the children's ward at the town's Russells Hall Hospital through a 1,000-mile cycle trek.

The Castle and Priory neighbourhood team have handed over a cheque for £5,731 to staff on the ward. In July last year the eight officers, known as the Castle Wheelers completed the journey from Land's End to John O'Groats. The team attempted the ride to buy two parent beds for the children's ward at Russells Hall Hospital – each costing £700. Pc Paul Davies, Pc Tristram Oliver, Pc Keith Scott and Peso David Grove completed the ride. Pc Oliver said: "It went brilliantly. It was very tough in places. We are delighted to raise so much money."

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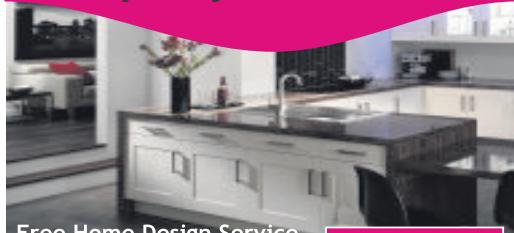
YOUNG people can apply for a grant to fund any projects or expeditions they are running.

The Margaret Westwood Memorial Charity, Brierley Hill, gives grants to young people under 25.

It can pay for organised expeditions or projects in the UK or abroad, and grants are available for organisations working with children and young people.

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## New battle set to start on proposal for waste site

RESIDENTS are gearing up for a new battle as final plans are drawn up for a controversial new waste processing plant on a £120 million business park.

Developers are set to submit an application for the plant at Coseley Eco Park in the coming weeks but campaigners say it could be harmful to the environment and want the plans refused.

Site owners Skelton Group Investments got the go-ahead in May for the main park, which will create up to 1,300 jobs on 66 acres between Birmingham New Road and Sedgley Road West.

Developers waited until getting the green light before submitting the waste plant plans, angering residents fear it will go through "as an afterthought". The plans

were withdrawn at the end of last year, preventing campaigners' objections from being aired at the planning meeting where the decision was made.

Locals are concerned the fumes coming from the chimney of the energy recovery facility, which will be used to power part of the site, could pollute the atmosphere.

They are now starting another petition – after gathering more than 130 names last time – and will send objection letters to the council.

Carla Lavender-Ward, of Thunderbolt Way, said: "We still feel very strongly about having this development on our doorstep."

But bosses say the plant is an environmentally friendly method of producing power.

## NEWS

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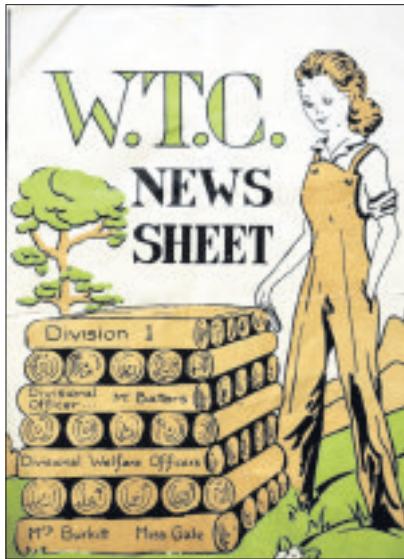
Modern day Lumberjills Jacqui Blackford, left, and Sarah Bowers



Lumberjills – and jacks – take time out to pose for this old picture



Lumberjills at work during the Second World War



# When tree fellers had jills to do the lumbering

by Marion Brennan

**THEY** came to Staffordshire to fell trees for vital timber in the Second World War, some of them still teenagers away from home for the first time.

Just like Jack in the children's nursery rhyme had his Jill, so the lumberjacks of Cannock Forest had their lumberjills to take over their work when they were called to fight at the Front.

Now the search is on to find women who worked in Staffordshire's woodlands during the 1939-45 conflict. The little-known lumberjills made a crucial contribution supplying timber for use as pit props and aircraft manufacture, and even in bomb-making.

At its peak, the Women's Timber Corps, set up 70 years ago, had about 8,000 members, young women who were billeted with families or in camps.

They felled and planted trees, meas-

ured them and drove tractors. Members of the WTC, an off-shoot of the Land Army, wore distinctive green uniforms and had their own beret badge featuring a conifer tree.

Today there are still lumberjills but these days machinery does much of the heavy work. Jason MacLean, of the Forestry Commission, which has launched the lumberjill search, said: "It was tough work back then as every tree had to be cut down by hand."

"Even in wartime the women performing this work could cut down 30 trees using a two-hander cross saw if they became very proficient. They really blazed a trail for the women who came after them."

Modern-day lumberjill Jacqui Blackford, based at Birches Valley on Cannock Chase, does not chop down trees but is involved in the important work of introducing schoolchildren to

the forest and helping to educate them about this special environment.

Her female colleagues are involved in planning, planting, design and management of the forest and many can use a chainsaw if required.

The 49-year-old former veterinary nurse said: "I've always been an outdoor girl, and it's nice now to have the forest as your office or classroom.

"Education has become an important part of our work."

The Forestry Commission say many women from the region must have served as lumberjills in the war but very little is known about where they were posted locally. Possible postings could have included Cannock Forest.

Anyone who was a lumberjill or had a family member who served in a Forestry Commission woodland during the last war is asked to contact Louise Fleetwood on 01623 821 457 or email louise.fleetwood@forestry.gsi.gov.uk



Lumberjills hard at work for that vital timber

A Lumberjills newsletter produced during the war

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## NEWS

# Recycling plans to go in after consultation ends

## A wet farewell for sir



Deputy head Matt Ashcroft with Holly Robbins

A KIDDERMINSTER primary school said a big wet goodbye to its deputy head.

Matt Ashcroft was saying farewell to Sutton Park primary in Greatfield Road, Kidderminster, at the summer fete – and got soaked as pupils paid to throw wet sponges at him.

The school fete raised £1,385.68.

More than 100 children enjoyed a bouncy castle, cakes, face painting and hot dogs, while close to 50 children took part in performances.

Mr Ashcroft had to endure around 300 wet sponges throughout the day.

Headteacher Marie Buckland said: "It was a fantastic event and the rain stayed away too."

A PLANNING application for a waste recycling plant in Brierley Hill will be submitted following the end of a public consultation into the proposal.

About 60 people turned out for the two-day consultation event at the Brierley Hill Project to view Clean Power's plans for the plant on land off Moor Street.

The firm will now review feedback from the consultation before submitting a planning application to Dudley Council by the end of next month. Residents raised some concerns about the plants at the consultation.

There were fears the development would lead to an increase in traffic.

Clean Power spokeswoman Jessica Stewart said: "We're very pleased with last week's exhibitions. Around 60 local residents came along to view the proposals and on the whole, feedback was positive."

The proposed plant would turn domestic and commercial waste into gas to generate electricity for up to 8,000 homes. The firm said the process would release low emissions without odour. It would also create 30 jobs.

Ms Stewart added: "Using feedback from the consultation, we plan to submit a planning application to Dudley Council in the coming month.

"After this, the council will also consult the community and key stakeholders."

Points raised at the public consultation included concerns over increased traffic from lorries taking waste to the plant. Bosses said there would be up to 60 lorry movements to and from the site a day.

## New HQ has time capsule

A time capsule featuring photographs and written memories has been buried at a council's new headquarters.

Wyre Forest District Council's £10million headquarters at Finepoint Business Park saw councillors gathered in the courtyard of Wyre Forest House to see it buried.



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**NEWS****Chemists multiplying**

SIX new 100-hour-a-week pharmacies could open in Dudley this year under a competition law loophole.

Under the law, to open a pharmacy an applicant needs approval from the local NHS body, but if it is going to be open for just 100 hours a week, it is granted an exemption.

Since 2005 seven new 100-hour-a-week pharmacies have opened in Dudley, taking the number of chemists in the borough up to 70.

Two others have been approved, but not yet opened, while another four have been proposed, three of which are in Brierley Hill.

**Man in bus bomb hoax**

**POLICE** stopped and searched a bus in Dudley after a drunken man made a 999 call saying there may be a bomb on board, a court heard.

Sean Long later told police he had made the call to gain attention after a row with his girlfriend.

Dudley Magistrates' Court heard he told officers he had overheard a conversation about a bomb on the 126 bus in Birmingham New Road, Dudley, on July 1. Long, aged 26, of Tryan Road, Nuneaton, admitted causing a bomb hoax. Sentencing was adjourned to August 6 for reports.

Mr Mark Cooper, prosecuting, told

the court police received the 999 call from a "drunken man" at 4.55pm.

The bus was stopped and searched by officers but nothing suspicious was found. Long had already got off the bus by then but he was arrested when he turned up at Brierley Hill police station to answer bail for a separate matter, said Mr Cooper.

**Girlfriend**

He told police he was drunk after having an argument with his girlfriend and had made up overhearing a conversation about a bomb to get some attention.

Miss Dawn Foxall, defending, said Long was "deeply regretful" about what happened and did not know what had come over him.

"His life has taken a turn for the worse in the last six months or so – he has lost his job, his relationship has broken down and he is having a custody battle with his ex-partner over his only child," she added.

"He has spiralled into depression and has not been acting himself."

"It was clear very early on this was most likely a hoax but the relevant precautions had to be taken."

Miss Foxall said the police were aware that the man on the phone was intoxicated, and there was limited disruption.

The bus, which was travelling from Birmingham to Dudley, was quickly identified and searched.

Passengers were not made aware of the reason for searching the bus.

**Police are handing out advice over sex attacks**

**POLICE** chiefs are giving revellers advice as part of a new safety campaign to reduce sexual attacks in towns and cities.

Officers across the West Mercia force area – which includes Wyre Forest and Hagley – will speak to young people on nights out from tonight to encourage them not to drink too much, to stay in control and to look after their friends.

They say people should ensure that anyone who has had too much to drink are put into taxis so they get home safely.

Detective Inspector Callie Bradley from the force's public protection unit said: "Research shows young people aged between 13 and 24 are most likely

to become victims of a serious sexual offence between 9pm and 3am on Friday and Saturday nights and that the number of rapes and serious sexual offences increase between June and August."

"Drinking to excess might seem like fun at the time, but it can make you extremely vulnerable."

"When you drink your inhibitions are much lower, which might cause you to take risks you wouldn't usually take."

"This could mean going home with someone you don't know and – in the worst cases – end up being a victim or offender of a serious sexual offence," he added.

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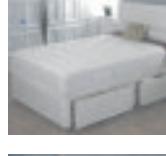
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**Pupils' farewell at double retirement**

Lollipop lady Sheila Voce and headteacher Peter Mountford are retiring from Wolverley Sebright School, Franche Road, Wolverley near Kidderminster

A HEADTEACHER and lollipop lady are preparing to bid a fond farewell to pupils and staff at their school near Kidderminster.

Wolverley Sebright Primary School headteacher Peter Mountford will leave his post on August 31 after 15 years in charge while lollipop lady Sheila Voce has left after 40 years of service.

Mr Mountford, aged 60, of Stourbridge, says he made the decision following the retirement of his wife, special needs teacher Carole, who is aged 56.

He said: "Nowadays children are taught a much broader range of subjects, it's quite amazing what they learn today. I have had a wonderful career teaching the children, I know I will probably miss it."

Mr Mountford joined the school following 18 years working as a teacher at five other schools in also presented Mrs Voce, aged 73, of Brook Street, with a bouquet.

She had previously assisted in the school's nursery.

**Owners of 'stolen' copper pipe sought**

POLICE are trying to trace the owners of copper pipes believed to have been stolen in Kidderminster. Two teenagers were spotted by officers carrying the piping down Worcester Road on July 10.

They were taken to a local scrapyard but when the police drew up in a vehicle the youths ran from the scene.

PC Julian Ward said: "The piping was seized and appeared brand new and dry even though the weather was wet. We believe it had been stolen shortly beforehand in that area, possibly from a van or a building site. We would like to hear from anyone who had copper pipes stolen there around then and also if anyone knows who these youths are or saw them."

Both youths were about 5ft 7ins and one had mousey coloured, short hair and was wearing dark clothing.

The other was wearing a grey woolly hat and red sweatshirt. PC Ward can be contacted on 0101.

# School plans to resubmit its bid after rejection

AN INDEPENDENT school in Kidderminster will continue to charge tuition fees to students for at least another two years after its bid to become a free school was turned down by the Government. Holy Trinity International School's application was not among the 102 approved by the Department for Education in the latest round.

But staff say they will resubmit the bid for the next application round later this year which if successful could see the site opening as a free school in 2014.

The Government has not made public the reasons for ruling against the application, which would have led to a large number of new school places being available. Free schools are run by groups of parents, teachers, governors, charities, trusts, religious and voluntary groups.

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# Man jailed for using a toy gun in robbery bid

A THUG who was wielding a fake gun threatened a shopkeeper during a raid on a store he used regularly as a customer, a court was told.

Neil Timmins pulled a pistol from his bag and pushed it into the stomach of Mohammed Khan when the shop was empty, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. Mr Khan was working at Minty's off-l licence in Wolverhampton Street, Dudley, when the 33-year-old raider struck at 7.15pm on June 8.

Prosecutor Mark Rees said Timmins waited for the store to empty of shoppers before turning on Mr Khan.

Mr Rees added: "He produced a handgun from a bag he was carrying and pushed it into the stomach of the shop assistant who thought he was going to be shot."

Timmins said: "Give me the money."

"But despite thinking he was going to be shot, Mr Khan grabbed hold of the gun and tried to wrestle it from the defendant."

"Then the gun broke and Mr Khan realised that it was a plastic toy."

At this stage Jamie Cartwright, who had accompanied Timmins in to the store, started throwing drink cartons around the

store before smashing the front window.

A passing police car gave chase to the two men, concluded Mr Rees.

Timmins, from Mullett Street, Pensnett, admitted attempted robbery and possessing an imitation firearm and was jailed for three years.

## Damaging

Cartwright, 18, from Barnfield Road, Stourport, who played no part in the robbery and had not realised that the other man had a plastic gun, pleaded guilty to damaging the shop window.

He was remanded on bail for pre-sentence reports but was told he would not be locked up. He will be sentenced on July 31.

## £2.6m revamp for park moves closer

A £2.6 MILLION revamp of an historic Stourbridge park has moved a step closer as council chiefs draw up a bid for funding.

Dudley Council is working on a second application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the planned revamp of Mary Stevens Park, in Norton. A consultation has been launched for the public to give their views on what needs to be done.

Landmarks across the parkland, off Heath Lane, will be restored should the bid be successful. Top priorities include the restoration of the war memorial and works to the pool and entrance gates around the park.

The main Grade II listed Mary Stevens gates are in urgent need of restoration with brick and ironwork showing signs of decay.

Campaigns led by Stourbridge Township Council have long argued for the Mary Stevens gates to be one of the priorities. For more information or to take part in the consultation visit [www.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.dudley.gov.uk)

Activities laid on for youngsters in summer

YOUNGSTERS aged eight to 14 will be able to take part in events at Dudley Leisure Centre over the summer holidays.

The sessions will run every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from August 1 to 24.

Children can take part in football, dancing, cycling and T-shirt design, and youngsters will also be able to use games consoles.

Admission for the full days is £10 and children will need to take a packed lunch and refreshments with them. Pre-payment and enrolment is required on 01384 812800.

Youngsters under 16 will also receive 50 per cent off the full adult price for badminton, football, netball and basketball. No pre-booking is necessary for these events.

Councillor Tracy Wood said: "There are plenty of activities."



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## Suction offers another solution



A CUTTING-EDGE development to help resolve the stability problems faced by thousands of denture wearers is now available. Denturist Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) says the invention has the potential to improve the life quality of those experiencing long-term problems with ill-fitting teeth. The Ultra Suction teeth are held in place by tiny valve-operated suction devices built into the dentures.

## All on 4 is now here



One of the most advanced restorative options for denture wearers is available in Wolverhampton and Dudley. An implant system called All on 4 offers a permanently retained full arch of teeth in a day.

Call us for more details.

## Finding a traditional answer

The work of the Denture Clinic has found satisfied customers from as far as Spain, the Isle of Skye, Anglesey and the south coast of England. Its hand-crafted dentures, made in laboratories on the premises, are known for their natural look, says clinic principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng). "I remain passionate about resolving problems for denture wearers and for many, quality, traditional dentures can bring about hugely effective results. We always aim to exceed expectations and strive for best clinical outcomes."

# Ann's transformation

ANN flashes an engaging smile and declares confidently: "I'm looking to join a choir – I love singing."

The retired general nurse, midwife and public health worker from the Midlands, continues: "It's one of the things I want to do again, having been involved in a Finding the Voice course.

"It's such a joyous pastime and what's more, it gives me pleasure while hopefully putting something back into life for others." It is hard to imagine Ann shying away from anything – a consummate, articulate professional, who embraces life and opportunity with an infectious enthusiasm.

But trouble with her teeth began to erode her positive approach and she admits her self-image took a dive. I became too self-conscious of my teeth."

She adds: "Family get-togethers over meals became awkward for me because my teeth were not functional, but it was at my mother's 90th birthday party it really came home to me. 'What's the matter with your teeth?'

"She said 'they're all misshapen'. It was true.

"My mother said what no-one else would say. It's true also, teeth can be life-damaging." Ann, who once worked in Australia before meeting her husband and returning to the UK, had suffered periodontal (gum) disease of her top crown.

Some teeth had become loose and twisted while other, more mobile teeth, had to be extracted. Her sister was a patient with Wolverhampton implantologist Jonathon Pugh BDS MSc, principal dentist at Parkdale Dental Clinic on Tettenall Road, and she persuaded her to have a consultation with him.

Mr Pugh recalls: "Sadly, by this time,

Ann's gum disease was aggressive and far too advanced so we didn't have the option to treat her gum disease. We had to extract all of her upper teeth and then place four implants to support an implant-retained denture."

Ann's case was then referred to Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) of the Denture Clinic, which is also

based at the Parkdale practice, and he prescribed and made the prosthetic. Mr Burchell, who also has a clinic in North Street, Dudley, says: "With the implant-retained top denture we could guarantee stabilisation, giving Ann the smile she wanted and excellent functionality too."

Ann, a volunteer support worker at a

hospice, adds: "I cannot speak highly enough of both clinics which provided excellent treatment for me.

"My implant-retained dentures have made a great improvement to my appearance and wellbeing."

"My teeth look and feel just like my own. It's been a good investment and offers a long-term solution."

## NEWS

# Quarry gets warning on breaching agreed hours

OPERATORS at a Dudley quarry have been caught working outside their allowed hours – and warned they face prosecution if it continues.

Managers at the Ketley Quarry, Kingswinford, have been served a breach of condition notice by Dudley Council.

It comes after residents complained trucks were entering the site, in Ketley Road, before the permitted 7.30am start time. Tile and brick makers Hinton, Perry and Davenhill must abide by the rules or face a maximum fine of £1,000.

Permission was recently granted for the quarry to open to loaded vehicles at 7.30am instead of 8am despite residents' objections.

And the family firm has revealed plans to open the quarry at 7am, angering locals who say queuing lorries clog up the road.

Campaigners who complained that lorries were arriving too early have welcomed the council's response.

Ward councillor Patrick Harley said: "None of us want to see the quarry close and we want the company to thrive but they need to be a responsible neighbour."

Alex Patrick-Smith, managing director of Hinton Perry and Davenhill, said: "A breach of conditions notice has been served by the council relating to our operators bringing clay on to the site around 15 or 20 minutes earlier than the start time in our planning consent."

"This has now stopped and will be strictly policed. We want to be good neighbours."

Councillor Shaukat Ali confirmed that a breach of condition notice had been served on Hinton Perry and Davenhill for breaches of the planning consent.

## Torchbearer says thanks



Dennis Saunders with the torch, says thank you to Sandwell Hospital's Dr Inessa Tracey from Cannock and Sharon Larder from West Bromwich

AN OLYMPIC torch-bearer visited a Black Country hospital to thank the staff who saved his life.

Dennis Sanders, aged 75, suffered

a major heart attack 20 years ago.

The grandfather from Newton Road, Great Barr said: "It was a Sunday, and luckily there weren't

many people on the roads and they got me to Sandwell Hospital in time.

My heart stopped and they had to

shock me back to life. It took me a

long time to recover." Mr Sanders completed his 300 metre section of the relay at the Black Country Living Museum, in Dudley on June 30 and was no-nominated for the run to mark his charity work, including raising hospital funds.

The former Dunlop worker particularly wanted to thank Professor Elizabeth Hughes and cardiac nurse Margaret Pritchard for their care and support over the years.

## ADVERTISEMENT

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**My teeth look and feel just like my own. I cannot speak highly enough of both clinics which provided excellent treatment for me**



# Holden's given go-ahead to expand its enterprise

A BLACK COUNTRY brewery has been given the go-ahead to expand in moves that will see production increase by 50 per cent.

Dudley Council has approved plans for a three-storey extension at Holden's Brewery in Woodsetton.

The £200,000 expansion at the site in George Street will include a 70,000-pint storage tank and two fermenting vessels.

It will mean production of the brewery's five beers can be stepped up from 50,000 to 75,000 pints per week.

Managing director Jonathan Holden said: "This is an exciting time for the brewery. In the current financial climate to think we are doing well is very pleasing."

"I think it is down to our good, local product, its price and the quality of landlords who sell it on."

The brewery's expansion plans also include exporting one beer, called Golden Special Bitter, to Japan.

To support the move the company has also opened a new bottle store and office space at its site.

Mr Holden said: "We are finding that people really enjoy the organic taste of our cask ale beers – there is a real market for them. It will be great not just to serve in the West Midlands, but also the high street."

Ground work is already complete for the site expansion, with work to begin soon on the storage space.

The plan follows an earlier one, also approved by Dudley Council, which was for two-storey expansion.

However, this was dropped for the new scheme, which could be followed by further work at the site over the next two years. Bosses have said they hope to build a brewing house, with a planning application likely to be submitted next year.

The firm is one of the oldest of its kind in the area and was started in 1915.

# Blitz on mini-motos

**POLICE** will seize mini-motorbikes from young riders in a new crackdown aimed at stopping them tearing around land close to homes in Stourbridge.

Riders can be heard racing across fields around busy Oldnall Road, Wollescote, by residents who have now called for action.

Officers say the bikes, many of which do not have silenced exhausts, have been ridden "recklessly" off road over the past few weeks.

West Midlands Police have received many reports of the illegal riders, prompting the fresh crackdown.

Patrols will be stepped up around the area in the coming

days, coinciding with the summer school holidays when more youngsters will be out and about.

Anyone seen riding recklessly will be stopped by officers who will warn them about their conduct.

Bikes will be removed or seized by officers in serious cases.

## Nuisance

Police encouraged residents to report any rides taking place on nearby fields.

Sgt Duncan Rudge, from the Cradley and Wollescote Neighbourhood Team, said: "We urge local people who are affected by the nuisance of off-road bikers to pass on information to us so we can continue to address the problem and reduce anti-social behaviour in the area."

Ward councillor Tim Crumpton welcomed the extra patrols by officers, saying riders were risking serious injury.

"These riders are generally uninsured and when they go on the road they are illegal," he said.

"If they are involved in an accident then who is going to pay out?"

"I've got nothing against people having fun but there are places that they can go to do this legally."

Police reiterated the law stating off-road motorbikes and mini-motorbikes can only legally be ridden on private land with the landowner's permission.

Anyone with information is asked to call Dudley police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Clinic hits milestone

STAFF at a clinic in Dudley have marked its third birthday.

The Dudley Borough Walk-in Centre at the Holly Hall Clinic, Stourbridge Road treated more than 47,000 patients in the last year.

The doctors and nurses at the centre see an average of 3,900 patients every month.

Their busiest month so far was in December 2011 when 4,371 patients attended with a variety of health problems.

Centre manager, Beryl Wicksteed, has been there from the start and was instrumental in setting up the service and recruiting the team.

They now have several GPs working there and have recently recruited additional senior nurses.

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**NEWS**

Drug addict stole scent and jeans from stores

A WOMAN stole perfume worth nearly £1,000 and 15 pairs of jeans from three shops in Dudley, a court heard.

Paige Barras, aged 18, wanted to sell on the stolen goods to fund her crack cocaine and heroin habits, Dudley Magistrates Court heard.

She was seen on camera with two others putting the jeans into a bag in Peacock's, Dudley High Street on April 27, said Mr Mark Cooper, prosecutor.

Later that day she was caught by security staff at Debenhams in the Merry Hill centre taking Versace perfume gift sets worth £290. Earlier she got away from the store with eight bottles of perfume worth £682.

Mr Harmail Gill, defending, said if Barras was given a community order she could undergo drug rehabilitation. The case was adjourned for a pre-sentence report.

## Gravel removed at mill to stop vandal attacks

GRAVEL on the car park of a Grade II listed windmill in the Dudley has been removed to stop vandals throwing stones at the building. Ruiton Mill Trust took the decision after eight windows were smashed at the 18th Century building in Upper Gornal, already this year. As well as taking away the gravel police have also promised to step up patrols and there are talks under way to install CCTV cameras.

### Metal firm's cards grow

A BRIERLEY HILL recycling business that launched its own voluntary membership scheme to deter metal thefts now has more than 300 members.

Mason Metals in Two Woods Lane is behind the project.

Commercial manager Neil Woodall said the next target was to reach 500. The scheme asks customers for their details in return for a member's card. The scheme mentioned in Parliament by Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris as an example of good practice.

"But this is a building we want to maintain and it is important we do anything we can to reduce the costs we are putting out for repairs."

Each window broken costs about £100.

The mill in Vale Street was built using sandstone from Gornal in about 1830, and was operated to crush stones for about 50 years. Four years ago it was refurbished.

# Couple's anniversary plan ruined as Hoverland fails

A BEWDLEY couple have been left shocked after a dream holiday for their 40th wedding anniversary fell through as coach company Hoverland collapsed.

The firm has left its offices in West Midlands House, Willenhall, and customers are being advised to contact their bank or Citizens Advice.

William and Pauline Brookes paid a £400 deposit for a week's coach trip in Italy when they heard about the firm's demise.

The couple tried to pay the final instalment for their £958 holiday. They posted a cheque but when it wasn't cashed they rang the company.

Mrs Brookes, aged 58, said: "A receptionist told us the company had gone under. We couldn't believe it. We'd booked the holiday last year, and we were set to go in two months."

The couple suffered another blow when their holiday insurers, the Post Office, said the deposit was not covered.

Mr Brookes, 62, said: "We don't know what do. We're supposed to be marking our anniversary but we have no money to get another holiday. We're devastated."

Mr and Mrs Brookes, who live at Riverside Caravan Park and are unemployed, told Walsall Council's trading standards department of their plight. Interim trading standards manager at Walsall Council, Lorraine Boothman, said: "We have made checks and have established the company in question has been dissolved. Officers are now making inquiries." Hoverland European Holidays was unavailable for comment.



William and Pauline Brookes who face missing out on their anniversary holiday

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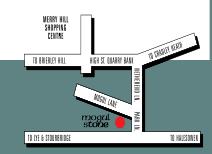
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## CLUB NEWS

### WORDSLEY M TWG

THE July meeting was held by vice chairman Ann Birchell who later welcomed the speaker to talk about Wiltshire Farm Foods.

The annual Federation lunch will be on July 30 at Wharton Golf and Country Club, Bewdley and the annual Harvest supper is on October 10 at Wollaston Village Hall.

On November 10 a Christmas decoration workshop takes place at the Ruskin Centre, Wollaston. The next lunch club meeting will be on August 6 at the Hollybush, Penn, and the September 3 meeting will be at The Bell, Kingswinford. Christmas lunch has been booked at the Himley 'Best Western' Hotel.

A garden/coffee morning will be held at Liz Hubbard's home on August 15 and at Margaret Ford's on August 19. A trip to John's Garden at Ashwood Nurseries is arranged for August 22.

A vote was unanimously passed that 'due to the ever increasing costs/charges by speakers a small charge of £1 per meeting be made'. This to include refreshments and to start in September.

Wordsley TG took part in the Wordsley Green Community Centre open day on June 30 and had a table to display the group's activities and forthcoming events.

The next group meeting will be on September 17 with an insight from Hannah Nolan into Acorn Children's Hospice.



Past president Richard Garbett hands over the chain of office to new incumbent Tony Brown

## Letter sent from Palace

ENID Fennell was pleased to welcome two visitors as well as Sheila Watts following her recent illness.

Discussion centred around the two excellent parties in celebration of the Queen's 60-year reign.

Correspondence included a "Thank You" from Sheila for the flowers and good wishes she received.

A letter from Buckingham Palace thanked the club for

### K'FORD TWG

the greetings sent to Her Majesty on her Jubilee.

Chris Grove gave an account the NCM in Birmingham. Josie Smith said she felt honoured to be the Federation Banner carrier.

Speaker was Graham Fisher, who spoke of the development of the glass industry and the part played

### ROTARY CLUB OF SEDGLEY & WOMBOURNE

ROTARIAN Tony Brown has been inducted as the new president. Past president Richard Garbett handed over the chain of office.

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Entrants must be 18 or over. Closing date for entries is Friday 10th August 2012. The winner will be notified by post. The first correct entry selected at random opened after the closing date will receive the prize. There is no cash alternative to the prize (the prize is non transferable). The prize will be issued in cheque form made payable to the advertiser as chosen by the winner (must be from the advertisers on this page).

Once won, the competition cannot be deferred and must be cashed within two months of receipt. Employees or their immediate relatives of the Express & Star may NOT enter. The Editor's decision is final. The winner must be prepared to take part in any publicity

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## What's On! Halesowen

### Mask making time at library

CHILDREN can have a go at making a troll mask at Halesowen Library on August 2 from 11am until noon.

The following day youngsters aged under five can visit the library in the Cornbow Centre dressed as a favourite television character between 9.30am and 10.30am.

Other activities are taking place at the library throughout the summer holidays, including a Spot the Dog session on August 10.

For a full programme and opening times contact the library on 01384 812983.

### Athletic club staging event

AN athletics event is being held on Saturday to coincide with the London Olympics. Halesowen Athletics and Cycling Club have launched the event.

Athletics 2012, is for children aged between nine and 14 and will be held at the club's Manor Abbey Stadium off Manor Way, Halesowen, from 10.30am. There are 40 places and cost £4. Visit [www.halesowen-athleticclub.co.uk](http://www.halesowen-athleticclub.co.uk).

### History talk

QUINTON Local History Society is hosting a talk by Janet Sullivan called Paying a Price for Industrialisation on August 7 at Quinton Parish Church Hall, Hagley Road West, Quinton from 7.15pm.

# Coronation Street reunion for Grand's panto stars

ONE of the most well-loved TV soap couples will be reunited on stage at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre this year as it was announced Ken Morley has joined the pantomime cast.

Ken, best known for playing Reg Holdsworth in Coronation Street, will be teaming up in Jack and the Beanstalk with Benidorm and Loose Women star Sherrie Hewson, who played his on-screen wife Maureen in the soap.

The couple's comedy partnership on Corrie delighted audiences during the 1990s.

Actor and comedian Ken will play The King.

Tamworth-based singer Niki Evans, who shot to fame on The X-Factor, returns for her third Grand Theatre panto as The Fairy. Highly-rated pantomime performer Nigel Ellacott joins the line-up as Jack's mother, Dame Trot.

### Orville

Already announced for the star-studded show is Keith Harris, with his sidekicks Orville the duck and Cuddles the monkey.

The actor playing the lead role of Jack has yet to be announced.

Jack and the Beanstalk will open on December 8 and runs until January 20.

It is already proving a hit with more than 14,500 tickets having been pre-booked.

### Olympic

The band, fronted by Guy Garvey, have composed the theme music for the BBC's Olympic coverage, entitled First Steps.

Elbow's debut UK arena tour in 2011 sold out and they've even launched their own beer. Dead in the Boot, their B-sides album, is due out next month.



Sherrie Hewson (centre) and Ken Morley (centre right) make it a Coronation Street reunion in Wolverhampton Grand's panto Jack and the Beanstalk. Also in the cast are, left, Niki Evans, Keith Harris and, right, top panto dame Nigel Ellacott. More than 14,500 tickets have been booked with more than four months to curtain up

### Swim centre offers lessons

SWIMMING lessons will be held at Halesowen Leisure Centre.

Staff at the centre, in Pool Road, will be running intensive swimming sessions for beginners from July 30 to August 3 and August 6 to 10.

They will run for half an hour per session and admission is £15 per week. Lessons for children aged four and above, who require arm bands will from 9am, 9.30am and 10am.

A new junior swimming course for beginners five and above who can swim up to 10 metres will also run from 9am, 9.30am and 10am.

### Volunteers call for Yeltz ground

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help with ground maintenance at the home of Halesowen Town football club on Saturday.

The club is making the final preparing for the new season next month. Works are being carried at The Grove Stadium, in Old Hawley Lane, from 8.30am. Anyone who can help can email Gary Willets on [yeltztrustrep@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:yeltztrustrep@hotmail.co.uk)

### Summer stroll

PEOPLE can join a stroll at The Leasowes on Saturday from 10am to 12.30pm. Places need to be booked on 01384 814642. Visitors should meet at the wardens' base, off Mucklow Hill, Halesowen.

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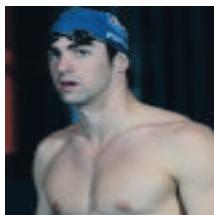
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**What's On!****SATURDAY'S TV 28.07.12****CHOICE****Michael Phelps****Olympics 2012  
BBC1, 7pm**

Gary Lineker presents all the key action live on the opening evening of the eagerly anticipated London Games. Much of tonight's focus will be on the swimming at the Aquatics Centre. Proceedings get under way with Michael Phelps looking to add to his record 14 Olympic golds when he competes in the 400m individual medley final. Away from the pool, men's bantamweight and middleweight boxing will take place at the ExCel London, with Luke Campbell and Anthony Ogogo genuine medal contenders for Great Britain in the respective divisions.

**BBC1**

**6.00** Olympic Breakfast. A round-up of national and international news. **9.00** Olympics 2012. Mishal Husain introduces coverage of the opening rowing and swimming heats, along with news from the men's cycling road race and the women's 10m air rifle. **11.30** Olympics 2012. Including further coverage of the rowing and swimming heats. **1.00** BBC News; Regional News: Weather. **1.15** Olympics 2012. Jake Humphrey presents coverage of the conclusion to the men's cycling road race, which culminates in a finish on the Mall. **4.45** BBC News; Regional: Weather. **5.00** Olympics 2012. Coverage of this afternoon's archery and tennis.

**7.00** **Olympics 2012.** Gary Lineker presents coverage on the opening evening of the Games, featuring the first four swimming finals at the Aquatics Centre and the latest men's bantamweight and middleweight bouts at the ExCel London. The schedule features the 7.30 men's 400m individual medley final, 7.40 women's 100m butterfly semi-finals, 7.49 men's 400m freestyle final, 8.09 women's 400m individual medley final, 8.30 men's 400m freestyle semi-finals and 8.50 women's 4x100m freestyle relay final. **10.00** BBC News: Weather. **10.20** The National Lottery Saturday Night Draws. **10.30** Olympics Tonight. A look back at the day's action and the latest live events. **12.00** BBC News. **12.10** Olympic Sportsday. Dan Walker presents a final round-up of the opening day's events at London 2012. **12.55** Weatherview. **1.00** BBC News.

**BBC2**

**6.00** CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **12.00** Film: Run of the Arrow. (1957) **1.20** Film: El Cid. (1961) **4.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.15** Formula 1: Hungarian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.

**6.30** Flog It! Will Axon and Thomas Plant value items in Southend-on-Sea, Essex, including a Dewarware bowl and a lamp, while presenter Paul Martin heads to a local museum. (R)

**7.30** **Dad's Army.** Comedy, starring John Laurie. (R)

**8.00** BBC Proms 2012. Daniel Barenboim conducts the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra in a performance of Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 in C minor (Mozart). Presented by Katie Derham.

**9.20** Barenboim on Beethoven: Nine Symphonies That Changed the World. Conductor Daniel Barenboim explains why he believes Beethoven's symphonies are among the most powerful ever created, as he performs them in China and South Korea.

**10.50** TOTP2. Mark Radcliffe introduces performances from the BBC archive, featuring artists including Altered Images, the Who and Belinda Carlisle, as well as a song by Rufus Wainwright. (R) **11.00** The Price of Fame. **11.50** Film: Jersey Girl. (2004) New love gives hope to a man trying to raise his baby alone after his wife dies in childbirth and he loses his job. Kevin Smith's romantic comedy, with Ben Affleck and Liv Tyler.

**1.30** Film: Golden Door. (2006) **3.20** Close.

**ITV1**

**6.00** CITV: Mini CITV. **7.20** CITV. **8.25** Saturday Cookbook. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** The Real Housewives of New York City. **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **1.10** Dancing on Ice Goes Gold. (R) **2.15** The Spy Who Loved Me. (1977) **3.45** Bond on adventure, starring Roger Moore. **5.30** Regional Programme: Weather. **5.45** ITV News: Weather.

**6.00** Agatha Christie's Marple. The nursery rhyme Sing a Song of Sixpence is connected to the murders of a business magnate, his wife and their maid. Julia McKellar stars as Miss Marple. (R)

**6.00** Midsummer Murders. A farmer is found dead at a sacred stone circle in Midsummer Mow and suspicion initially falls on local druids, but Barnaby is convinced greed rather than superstition is the motive. (R)

**10.00** ITV News: Weather. **10.15** Mad Mad World. Joe Swash, Kimberly Wyatt and Charlie Baker are the guests joining team captains Rufus Hound and Rhys Darby and regular panelist Rob Rouse for the comedy quiz.

**10.55** Film: Alexander. (2004) A Macedonian king undertakes a 1-year-long campaign to create the world's most powerful empire. Oliver Stone's historical epic, starring Colin Farrell, Angelina Jolie and Vai Kilmer.

**1.50** The Store. Home shopping: ITV News Headlines. **2.55** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.40** ITV Morningscreen. Text-based information service. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

**CHANNEL 4**

**6.05** Channel 4 Presents: London 2012 – David Clarke PIII. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** British Formula Ford Championship. **7.00** The Grid. **7.30** That Paralympic Show. (R) **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** 4: Ibiza Rocks: Labrinth, (R) and Example. **9.45** 4: New Girl. (R) **10.15** The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. **11.15** T4: Summer Daze. **12.20** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.50** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.20** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** Channel 4 Racing. **4.15** Channel 4 Presents: London 2012 – Bayley Part II. (R) **5.20** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.20** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.55** Come Dine with Me. (R)

**6.20** Come Dine with Me. Rebecca Ryan hosts the final dinner party in York. (R) **6.50** Channel 4 News. **7.20** 4Thought.tv.

**7.25** The Million Pound Drop. Joe Swash and Jessica-Jane Clement finish their game, then Debra Stephenson and Jon Gosselin and Martin Kemp and his son Roman take their turn on the high-stakes quiz.

**9.00** Film: The Women. (2008) Premiere. A group of rich women rally round when a friend learns of her husband's affair. Comedy drama remake with an all-female cast, starring Meg Ryan and Annette Bening.

**11.10** Film: Red Cliff. (2008) Premiere. John Woo's historical drama, with Tony Leung Chiu Wai and Takeshi Kaneshiro. In Mandarin.

**1.50** The Store. Home shopping: ITV News Headlines. **2.55** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.40** ITV Morningscreen. Text-based information service. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

**CHANNEL 5**

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.00** Merkat Manor. (R) **10.30** Monkey Life. (R) **11.00** Big Brother: The Eviction. (R) **12.00** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **1.00** Film: Murder 101. (2006) Mystery, starring Dick Van Dyke.

**2.45** Live Football. **5.15** Film: Jesse Stone: Night Passage. (2006) **7.00** 5 News Weekend.

**7.05** NCIS. Abby babysits a bright nine-year-old while the rest of the team searches for the youngster's missing father – a former Marine with a connection with a case of robbery and murder. (R)

**7.55** NCIS. The investigators identify the man they believe to be the port-to-port killer, and rush to apprehend him before he can claim any more victims. Last in the series. (R)

**8.55** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** Big Brother. The latest updates from the house. Updated by Marcus Bentley.

**10.00** CSI: Miami. The team investigate a female escort is found murdered in a private hotel cabin and discovers the victim had been providing his services to the establishment's guests.

**11.00** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. A woman reports the disappearance of her son in a park and the investigation begins on a suspicious man seen loitering in the vicinity – but all is not as it appears. (R)

**12.00** SuperCasino. **4.00** HouseBusters. (R) **4.25** Great Scientists. (R) **4.50** Rough Guide to Beaches. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

**DIGITAL**

**BBC Three** **8.30** Olympics 2012 **2.00** Olympics 2012 – Athletics **11.00** Russell Howard's Good News **11.30** Live at the Electric

**BBC Four** **7.00** The Blue Planet. The effects of tides on marine life. **8.00** 10 Things You Didn't Know About Earthquakes

**9.00** Wallander: Side-tracked – Part One **10.25** Natural World **11.15** Arena: Amy Winehouse – The Day She Came to Wine

**ITV2** **2.40** America's Got Talent **5.25** Film: King Kong (2005) **9.00** Film: Quantum of Solace (2008) James Bond thriller, starring Daniel Craig.

**11.10** Celebrity Juice

**ITV3** **2.45** Film: The Secret of My Heart (1997) **8.00** Film: Doc Hollywood (1991) Comedy, starring Michael J. Fox. **10.00** Agatha Christie's Marple

**ITV4** **3.45** British Superbike Championship Highlights **4.45** The Cycle Show **5.15** Film: The Great Outdoors (1988) **7.00** The Sweeney

**8.00** Minder **9.00** Film: Fire Down Below (1997) **11.10** Film: Escape from New York (1981)

**E4** **3.05** Desperate Housewives **4.00** Revenge **5.00** How I Met Your Mother **6.00** Big Bang Theory **7.30** Rules of Engagement **8.30** Suburgatory **9.00** Film: Blade Trinity (2004) **11.10** The Big Bang Theory

**Film4** **3.10** Ponyo (2008) **5.15** A Walk in the Clouds (1995) Romantic drama, starring Keisha Reeves, Aitana Sanchez-Gijon and Anthony Quinn.

**7.15** Jumper (2009) Fantasy thriller.

**9.00** Run Fat Boy Run (2007) **10.55** Team America: World Police (2004)

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**What's On!****SUNDAY'S TV 29.07.12****CHOICE**

Rebecca Adlington

**BBC1**

**6.00** Olympic Breakfast. **9.00** Olympics 2012. Mishal Husain presents coverage of this morning's rowing heats and repechages, and the latest swimming heats on day two of the London Games. **10.30** Olympics 2012. Hazel Irvine presents further coverage of the rowing and swimming heats, along with the latest on the women's cycling road race and the start of the sailing regatta. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.10** Olympics 2012. Jake Humphrey presents coverage of the concluding stages of the women's cycling road race, which reaches a climax on the Mall. Olympics coverage continues on BBC2. **5.00** Formula 1: Hungarian Grand Prix Highlights. Action from the 11th round of the season. **6.30** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

**7.00** **Olympics 2012.** Gary Lineker introduces this evening's four swimming finals, along with updates on the women's 4x100m relay and men's football, both featuring Team GB. The full schedule of finals features the 7.30 women's 100m butterfly, 8.08 men's 100m breaststroke, 8.15 men's 100m freestyle and 8.54 men's 100m butterfly relay, along with the semi-finals in the 7.37 men's 200m freestyle, 7.48 women's 100m breaststroke, 8.25 men's 100m backstroke and 8.44 women's 100m backstroke. **10.00** BBC News; Regional News. **10.25** **Olympics Tonight.** Gabby Logan looks back at the highlights of day two. **12.00** BBC News. **12.10** Olympic Sportsday. **12.55** Weatherview. **1.00** BBC News.

**BBC2**

**6.00** CBeebies. **7.05** CBBC. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Raymond Blanc: The Very Hungry Frenchman. **12.30** Escape to the Country. **1.15** Film: The Man from Laramie. (1955) Western, with James Stewart. **2.55** Great British Adventure Days. **3.25** Olympics. **4.25** Songs of Praise. **5.00** Olympics 2012. **7.00** **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce and the team head to Brighton College, where objects up for valuation include a medal from the Battle of Trafalgar and a rare piece of Clanc Cliff pottery. **8.00** **Engineering Giants: Ferry Strip-Down.** Tom Bell witness North Sea passenger ferry the Pride of Bruges receiving a complete overhaul to extend its working life. Last in the series. **9.00** **The Dark Nature's Game.** New series. Biologists and camera crews explore the wildernesses of South and Central America at night, beginning by encountering nocturnal predators in the jungles of Costa Rica. **10.00** MotoGP. The US Grand Prix (Start-time 10.00pm). Matt Abbotts presents highlights of the opening of the 10th round of the season at Laguna Seca in California. **11.00** **Line of Duty.** Gates goes on the run, while Arnott questions Fleming's integrity. Last in the series. **12.00** Twenty. **(R) 12.30** Formula 1: Hungarian Grand Prix Highlights. **2.00** Sign Zone: Holby City. **(R) 3.00** Britain's Heritage Heroes. **(R) 3.30** Close.

**ITV1**

**6.00** CITV: Mini CITY. **7.20** CITV. **8.25** Dinner Date. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** House Gift. **(R) 10.20** There's No Taste Like Home. **(R) 11.20** The Hungry Sailors. **(R) 12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** Film: Baby Boom. (1987) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk, Little Richard, Dabney Coleman, Shera Danese, Cheryl Paris and Julian Stone. **4.30** Doc Martin. **(R) 5.30** Doc Martin. **(R) 6.30** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.45** **ITV News:** Weather. **7.00** **Royal Greenwich.** John Sergeant explores the history of the London borough. **8.00** **The Zoo.** Two-part follow-up to the series about London Zoo. One keeper prepares to deliver penguin chicks, while another tries to raise awareness of a plague affecting frogs. **9.00** **A Touch of Frost.** Inspector Jack Frost reopens an unsolved murder case when the remains of a 14-year-old girl who went missing 20 years previously are discovered on a housing development. **11.00** **ITV News:** Weather. **11.20** **Take Me Out.** A hockey champion, a graphic designer and a gym manager try to impress 30 single women, and last week's couple go on their dates. Paddy McGuinness presents. **(R)** **12.25** **Premiership Rugby.** Sevens Series. **1.15** **The Store;** ITV News Headlines. **3.05** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **3.55** Motorsport UK. **4.45** **ITV Nightscreen.** **5.30** **ITV Morning News.**

**CHANNEL 4**

**6.15** **The Hoobs.** **(R) 6.40** Ironman 2012. **7.05** **FIM Superbike World Championship.** **(R) 7.35** Road to London 2012: Paralympics Extra. New series. A preview of this summer's Games. **8.00** **Will & Grace.** **(R) 8.25** **Shark Attack.** **(R) 8.55** **Frasier.** **(R) 9.25** **Frasier.** **(R) 10.00** **Sunday Brunch.** **(R) 13.55** Jamie Does Stockholm. **(R) 1.35** Jamie Does Stockholm. **(R) 2.05** The Big Bang Theory. **(R) 2.35** The Simpsons. **(R) 3.05** The Simpsons. **(R) 3.30** **Three in a Bed.** **(R) 4.35** Deal or No Deal: Gold Medal Deal. **(R) 5.35** Channel 4 News. **6.05** **4thought.tv.** **6.10** **It's Time Again.** (2009) A man's wish to be a teenager again is granted, but his mature outlook on life puts him at odds with others when he returns to high-school. Comedy, with Matthew Perry and Zac Efron. **8.00** **Come Dine with Me.** **(R) 8.30** **Meat.** **(R) 8.45** **Mark Foster,** **Tasha Danvers,** **Derek Redmond** and **Louise Hazel** compete in the dinner-party challenge to win £1,000 for a charity of their choice. **9.00** **Thelma's Gypsy Girls.** Thelma Madine invites the trainees to her daughter's birthday party, while presenters return at the factory as Grace attends a family funeral and Bridget storms out. **10.00** **Sex Story: Fifty Shades of Grey.** The phenomenon of the best-selling erotic novel. **11.00** **Film: Indecent Proposal.** (1993) Drama, with Robert Redford and Demi Moore. **1.10** **Camelot.** **(R) 2.00** **The Big C.** **2.30** **Hollyoaks.** **(R) 4.35** **St Elsewhere.** **(R) 5.25** **Countdown.** **(R)**

**CHANNEL 5**

**6.00** **Milkshake! Peppa Pig.** **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. **(R) 6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. **(R) 6.25** City of Friends. **(R) 6.35** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. **(R) 6.50** Castle Farm. **(R) 6.55** Abby's Flying Fairy School. **(R) 7.00** **Roobarb and Custard.** **(R) 7.15** **Bobble in Pyjamas.** **(R) 7.25** Family. **(R) 7.35** Noddy in Toyland. **(R) 7.45** Mio Mao. **(R) 7.50** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. **(R) 8.00** Little Princess. **(R) 8.10** **The Adventures of Botts Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky.** **(R) 8.25** Angelina Ballerina. **(R) 8.45** **Rupert Bear.** **(R) 9.00** **Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** **(R) 9.15** **The Mr Men Show.** **(R) 9.25** Roary the Racing Car. **(R) 9.40** **Jelly Jamm.** **(R) 10.00** **Inside Hollywood.** **10.05** **Monkey Life.** **(R) 10.35** **Ice Road Truckers: Deadliest Roads.** **(R) 1.35** **Ring Boring.** **(R) 12.35** **Film: Doctor Who and the Daleks.** **2.15** **Film: Zoom.** **(2006) 4.00** **Film: Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach.** (1988) **5.50** **Film: Ghostbusters II.** (1989) **7.55** **5 News Weekend.** **8.00** **Once Upon a Time.** Emma searches for evidence that Mary Margaret was framed for Kathryn's murder, while a flashback to the land of fairies takes reveal why Regina harbours a grudge against Snow White. **9.00** **Big Brother.** **10.00** **Film: Bulletproof.** (1996) Action comedy, starring Adam Sandler. **11.35** **Film: Undisputed.** (2002) Boxing drama, starring Ving Rhames. **1.20** **SuperCasino.** **3.50** Sons of Anarchy. **4.50** **Rough Guide to Cities.** **(R) 5.00** **Hana's Helpine.** **7.00** **X-Men: The Last Stand.** (2006) Superhero adventure sequel, starring Hugh Jackman. **9.00** **Taken** (2008) **10.50** Law Abiding Citizen (2009)

**DIGITAL**

**BBC Three**  
9.00 Olympics 2012. **2.00** Olympics 2012. **7.00** Olympics 2012. **11.00** Family Guy. **11.45** American Dad!

**BBC Four**  
7.00 Himalaya with Michael Palin  
**8.00** The Kenneth Williams Story: A Reputations Special. **9.30** Kenneth Williams: Fantabulous! **10.50** Parkinson: The Interviews – Kenneth Williams

**ITV2**  
3.00 **Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **4.50** **Film:** Dante's Peak (1997) **6.50** **Film:** The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **7.00** **Film:** Bendon 10.00 **Film:** The Only Way Is Essex 10.45 **Film:** The Jacket (2005)

**ITV3**

3.50 **Film:** Doc Hollywood (1991) **5.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot. **9.00** **Film:** Vertigo (1958) Hitchcock thriller, starring James Stewart. **11.40** **Film:** Trial & Retribution

**ITV4**  
3.20 **Film:** The Battle of Midway (1976) **6.00** **Film:** 633 Squadron (1964) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Sevens Series. **9.00** **Film:** The Jerk (1979) **11.00** **Film:** Midnight Run (1988)

**E4**

3.10 **Glee 4.10** **New Girl 4.40** **Suburbicon 5.10** **The Big Bang Theory 6.10** **Ice Age: The Meltdown** (2006) **9.00** **50 Greatest Plastic Surgery.** **7.00** **Film:** The Poseidon Adventure (1972) **5.00** Jungle 2 Jungle (1997) Comedy, starring Tim Allen and Lotta Davidovich. **7.00** **X-Men: The Last Stand** (2006) Superhero adventure sequel, starring Hugh Jackman. **9.00** **Taken** (2008) **10.50** Law Abiding Citizen (2009)

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## What's On!

### Film Choices

**MONDAY**

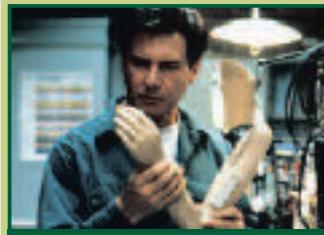
**Anna and the King, Channel 4, 12.25pm**  
A widowed schoolmistress leaves Victorian England to tutor a son of the King of Siam, only to discover his majesty actually expects her to care for all 58 of his children. In spite of disagreements and many ups and downs, the teacher gradually forms a deep platonic love for her royal employer. Period drama, starring Jodie Foster and Chow Yun-Fat. (1999)

**Once Upon a Time in Mexico, Channel 5, 11pm**

A crazed CIA agent based in Mexico learns of a conspiracy involving a drug baron and a military general to assassinate the president. He finds the perfect man to prevent the coup in the shape of a legendary gunslinger, who is seeking revenge on the general for murdering his wife. Thriller, starring Johnny Depp. (2003)

**TUESDAY**
**The Fugitive, ITV1, 10.35pm**

A doctor is wrongly accused of his wife's murder and forced to go on the run to prove his innocence – but his efforts to find the mysterious one-armed man he believes is the real killer are hampered by a tenacious US marshal. Thriller, starring Harrison Ford and an Oscar-winning Tommy Lee Jones. (1993)



**The Fugitive, Tuesday, ITV1, 10.35pm**

**WEDNESDAY**
**Deep Blue Sea, ITV1, 10.35pm**

A scientist researching Alzheimer's disease devises a way to enlarge the brains of killer sharks on an isolated research facility to help develop her theories. However, the experiments result in a marked increase in the creatures' intelligence, and before long they manage to escape their confinement – with bloody consequences. Thriller, starring Saffron Burrows. (1999)

**THURSDAY**
**Trust, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

An artist receives a series of anonymous letters and e-mails telling her that her husband is having an affair. She sets out to expose the identity of the person behind the messages, but is distracted by nagging doubts that the dire warnings may be true. Mystery, starring Jamie Lerner and Steven Cree Molison. (2009)

**FRIDAY**
**The Bourne Identity, ITV1, 10.35pm**

A fishing boat crew plucks a man out of the sea with two bullet wounds in his back and a safe-deposit number sewn into his skin – but absolutely no memory of who he is or how he got there. In the search for his true identity, he is pursued by assassins – but his attempts to escape them suggest his own past is far from straightforward. Thriller, starring Matt Damon. (2002)

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### Pick of the Week

## Toby returns on the right side of the law

**T**oby Stephens is not best known for his comic skills, though there were some unintentionally funny sneers from him when he played the scoundrel in 2007 epic *Die Another Day* 10 years ago. However, he clearly had a great time when he was cast in the comedy drama *Vexed* (Wednesday, BBC2, 9pm).

If you missed that first run when it aired a year later, it centred on Jack Armstrong and Kato Bishop, two detectives who were completely mismatched. The former was one of the worst private eyes of all time, while the latter tried to do a good job, but kept getting dragged down by Jack.

Now series one actress Lucy Punch has moved on to other projects, for the first of a six-part series, Jack is teamed with new partner Georgina Dixon (Miranda Raison). She's an ambitious officer who has been promoted to detective inspector and has no reservations about expressing her disdain for Jack's sloppy approach to crime. *Clin Eastwood* kept the wolf from

Naturally the duo have to put aside their differences when they investigate the strange death of an egocentric car salesman. Stephens loved making the first series, not least because he got to rare chance to do comedy on TV instead of the dramatic roles he was known for. "It was kind of like having a vacation for me," he remarked at the time. It helped that his character was such a bumbling detective instead of a shrewd villain hell bent on world domination. "I just had to turn up every day and have fun," he smiles.

As any theatre luvvie will tell you, Toby is the son of acclaimed actors Robert Stephens and Maggie Smith. So, partly because of genetics and partly through seeing a lot of theatre when he was young, it was inevitable he would start reading the boards. He made his film debut 20 years ago in *Die Another Day*, impressed many with TV hit *The Camomile Lawn*. Roles in a film version of *Twelfth Night* and *Space Cowboys* (in which he played a younger version of director/star Clint Eastwood) kept the wolf from

the door, but it was his turn as egomaniacal Gustav Graves in *Die Another Day* that could have changed his life forever.

It didn't hurt that Pierce Brosnan's final 007 epic made millions at the box office and put Stephens on the map of many Hollywood casting agents who may have been indifferent to his earlier work. However, given the choice between spending days and maybe months in LA waiting for the phone to ring, and then playing generic villains in assorted epics or working on lower paid theatre/TV work, he chose the latter. "Once you've done a villain, that's all you end up doing," he remarked. You can see his point.

Charming, good looking and most of all British, he ticks all the boxes for any uninspired Tinseltown director looking for the next antagonist for their blockbuster. Jack Armstrong may spend a lot of time vexed about his work, but his real life alter ego could hold a masterclass in tickling ribs, as this first episode proves.



**Toby Stephens heads the cast of *Vexed*, Wednesday, BBC2, 9pm**

### Best of the Rest

**MONDAY**  
**We Love the Monkees**  
**ITV1, 9pm**

Hey, hey, they were the Monkees – the manufactured boy band who turned out to have minds of their own, and whose hits have outlasted their TV show by more than 40 years. If the tributes to Davy Jones, who died in February, weren't enough to convince you that the group were more than just 'the Prefab Four', then perhaps this documentary will finally make you a believer. It tells the story of how Jones, Mickey Dolenz, Peter Tork and Mike Nesmith were brought together by US TV producers who wanted to create their own version of the Beatles to star in a sitcom.

**Olympics Tonight**  
**BBC1, 10.40pm**

Gabby Logan is joined by guests to present a look back at the highlights on day three in London, as well as live coverage of the late-night events, which are beach volleyball, basketball and volleyball. The Aquatics Centre took centre stage once again, with Tom Daley and Peter Waterfield aiming for diving gold in the 10m platform final. Waterfield was looking to go one better than the silver he won in this event eight years ago in Athens alongside Leon Taylor, and 18-year-old Daley was aiming to win his first Olympic medal.

**TUESDAY**
**Olympics 2012**  
**BBC1, 7pm**

Gary Lineker presides over the fourth evening's events in London, with the main focus of attention being on the Aquatics Centre, where four finals and

three semi-finals take place. Britain's big medal hope in the pool tonight is Hannah Miley, providing she managed to qualify for the 200m individual medley final, having failed to do so four years ago. Elsewhere, updates and reaction come from Wembley Stadium, where the Great Britain women's football team played their final Group E match against a Brazil side likely to be spearheaded by one of the finest female players of all time in Marta.

**Love Your Garden**  
**ITV1, 8pm**

Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice in South Yorkshire is devoted to the support of children with shortened life expectancy. One key thing missing from the Hospice was a place where families left behind could reflect on the life which had passed on. Alan Titchmarsh was keen to put that right, and plans to create a garden of peace and tranquility. Alas, it's not long before the weather has thrown a spanner in the works. Also this week, David Domoney investigates natural seating, and Frances Tophill checks out the stunning new wave perennial planting at Wisley.

**WEDNESDAY**
**24 Hours in A&E**  
**Channel 4, 9pm**

This week's show features three-month-old Jaziah, the youngest patient ever featured on the series. He has been rushed in with breathing difficulties. Severely underweight and with an enlarged liver, consultant

Jacqui needs to work fast to give him a chance of survival. We also meet Kerry, the mother of 18-month-old Charlie. She is awaiting urine test results which may explain why he's been feeling unwell for five days.

**THURSDAY**
**Olympics 2012**
**BBC1, 4pm**

Sue Barker and Jake Humphrey present as the track cycling competition begins at the London Velodrome, with Team GB hopeful of producing more fine displays after some outstanding cycling performances in recent years.

Providing they negotiate their way through the earlier heats, Victoria Pendleton and Jess Varnish will be going for gold in the women's team sprint event. Pendleton has already tasted Olympic glory when she won the individual sprint discipline four years ago in Beijing and Varnish has proved herself to be a more than capable partner.

Also taking place in this session are the early stages of the men's team sprint and team pursuit, with triple gold medallist in Beijing, Chris Hoy, among those set to be in action.



**Olympics Tonight, Monday, BBC1, 10.40pm**

**The Briefs**
**ITV1, 9pm**

What a load of pants! Well, not really. In fact, despite its suggestive title, this new series has absolutely nothing to do with underwear. Instead, it's a two-part documentary that goes behind the scenes at Manchester law firm Tuckers. It's been in operation since 1980, and specialises in criminal defence work. The company prides itself on its ability to take on a wide range of cases and clients – and this first episode certainly reflects that.

Among the people walking through the doors is a 63-year-old woman who's been accused of dealing drugs, and a man about to stand trial for attempting to blackmail Coleen Rooney, wife of England and Manchester United footballer Wayne Rooney. Jones narrates this extraordinary and eye-opening programme.

**FRIDAY**
**Soham: A Parents' Tale**
**ITV1, 9pm**

It's now 10 years since the murders of Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman, but many people still can't hear the name of girls' home town of Soham without recalling the poignant photo of the 10-year-old friends in matching football shirts. Their deaths and the subsequent trial and conviction of Ian Huntley caused a national outrage, but this sensitive documentary focuses on the experiences of Holly Wells' family, asking how they survived what must surely be every parent's worst nightmare. Her father Kevin and mother Holly discuss the terrible days spent waiting for news of their daughter, and how they have rebuilt their family.

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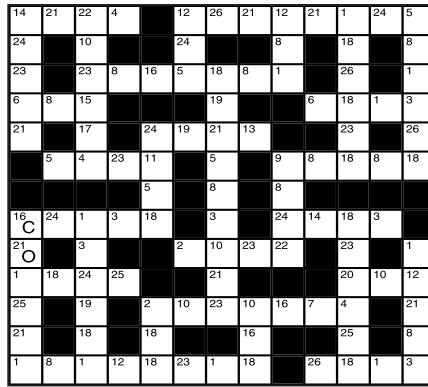
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**What's On!****Brain Gym**

NO 179

**Codeword**

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	U	M	G	L	Y	B	T	K	S	F	I	13
14	Q	O	D	Z	R	X	V	P	A	W	N	J

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IN ONE HANDY APP!****Circlegram**

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S  
SOLUTION:  
The letter  
represented by  
the question  
mark is C. Canasta,  
Conquian, Caricola,  
all card games.

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**Double Crossword**

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

**Cryptic Clues:****Across**

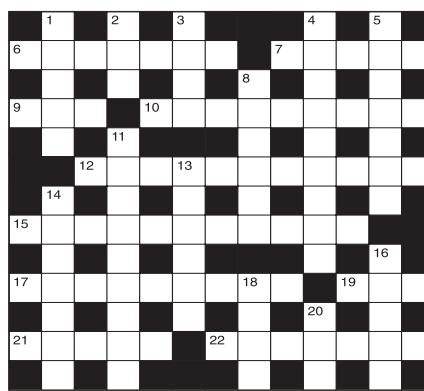
- Not going away to do some checking (7)
- & 22 Ac. Look at the man in the box - he saw it all (3-7)
- Staking a greater amount, we hear - he's feeble-minded (5)
- Perform with cat, somehow (3)
- No serious form of enjoyment (9)
- It may be kept on hand for the fight (6-5)
- Start nothing before one is in a different ring (6)
- This prediction could be hopelessly wrong - or so epoch-making! (9)
- When making his incisions, he'll leave no stone unturned! (3-6)
- One politician can be a little devil (3)
- Moves lightly but stumbles (5)
- See 2 Down

**Quick Clues:****Across**

- Try (7)
- Sham (5)
- Clamour (3)
- Exculpate (9)
- December 31st (3,5,3)
- Absolutely sure (4,7)
- Make clear (9)
- Fish-eggs (3)
- Join together (5)
- Tumbler (7)

**Down**

- A whip to keep in store (5)
- & 22 Ac. Look at the man in the box - he saw it all (3-7)
- American news would be incomplete without her (4)
- Fashion a catalogue for one who keeps strictly to the rules (9)
- What winkers do? (7)
- Start nothing before one is in a different ring (6)
- This prediction could be hopelessly wrong - or so epoch-making! (9)
- Metal bars go in a variety of tins (6)
- Weapon required to discharge a member (7)
- Be quiet about mother's road accident (5)
- & 20 Dn. i.e. novel translation of "Mephistopheles" (4,3)



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Crossword clue; 8 Entrance; 9 Raft; 10 Farrow; 12 Indoor; 14 Denial; 16 League; 18 Taxi; 20 Deflated; 22 Pulling a punch. Down: 1 Frontage; 2 Usurer; 3 Swan; 4 Free will; 5 Scored; 6 Buff; 11 Will one; 13 Opulence; 15 Circle; 17 Abut; 19 April; 21 Fear. QUICK - Across: 1 Circle; 2 Opulence; 3 Circle; 4 Circle; 5 Circle; 6 Buff; 12 Corner; 14 Street; 16 Lodge; 18 Ephy; 20 Motivate; 22 Comprise. Down: 1 Merchant; 2 Grand; 3 Shut; 4 Inimical; 5 Linger; 6 Plan; 11 Remember; 13 Electron; 15 Escape; 17 Dived; 19 Poor; 21 Tier.

**Sudoku**

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S  
SOLUTIONS >

1	4	6	9	5	3	8	7	2
8	2	3	7	1	4	5	6	9
9	7	5	6	2	8	3	4	1
7	3	8	4	9	6	1	2	5
4	3	6	2	6	9	1	5	7
5	6	1	4	8	7	9	2	3
3	5	7	8	9	2	6	1	4
6	1	4	3	7	5	2	9	8
2	8	9	1	4	6	7	3	5

3		1		6	5
7		3		9	
		9		3	4
1			4		5
2	4	3			
		8		9	1
1				5	9
				9	7
5		6	8		2

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QUICK CROSSWORDS  
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It is well placed for a good selection of shops within nearby Lapwood Avenue/Bromley Lane together with regular public transport services and with the centre of Kingswinford only a short distance away.

With gas central heating and UPVC double glazing the bungalow has a 19ft 1in by 12ft lounge with living flame gas fire and smooth stone feature fireplace surround while the conservatory is 12ft 6in by 9ft 7in with French-style doors to the

side/rear garden.

The refitted kitchen, 8ft 7in by 7ft 9in, has a range of units with wood effect roll edge work surfaces, one and a half bowl sink/drainer with mixer tap, recess and plumbing for automatic washing machine, recess for tumble dryer, integrated stainless steel four ring gas hob with cooker hood above, integrated oven and fridge/freezer and pullout larder cupboard.

### Classic

There are two bedrooms and a bathroom with classic white suite comprising P-shaped bath with shower and screen, vanity units with inset wash basin and WC.

Outside the property is set back behind a front lawn/shrubbed area with a block paved driveway leading to a carport and garage, and there is a low maintenance rear garden with paved patio with raised pebbled rear and border with playing fields beyond.

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The smart galley kitchen utilises space effectively



The spacious conservatory has French doors which open to the rear garden



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**ROWLEY REGIS, PEARTREE DRIVE**  
Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac and close to the M5, is this modern unfurnished detached house, comprising of: Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Master Bedroom with En-Suite, Garage and Driveway Parking. Gardens

£650 PCM



**HALESOWEN, BLAGDON ROAD**  
A three bedroom part furnished to suit three storey town house in this very popular residential area, close to Newfield Park School, Earls and Windsor. Comprising of: Large Living Room, Fitted Kitchen with Appliances, three double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, garage and driveway parking. Available immediately.

£650 PCM



**HALESOWEN, WASSELL ROAD**  
A stunning unfurnished 3-storey cottage style mid terraced property comprising of: 3 Bedrooms with Wardrobes, Master En-suite with Free Standing State of the Art Bath and Separate Shower, 2 Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Shower Room, Private Rear Garden with Superb Decking surrounded by Permeable Border. Parking for one Vehicle at Front of Property. Not to be missed! Available Mid-September.

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**HALESOWEN, HOLT ROAD**  
A nicely presented refurbished and terraced home, close to local shops, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen with White Goods, Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front and Rear Gardens, Driveway and Garage, Unfurnished.

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**CRADLEY HEATH, CASTLE CLOSE**  
An unfurnished semi detached house, in a cul-de-sac and a sought after location, briefly comprising of: Two Good Size Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Brand New Fitted Dining Kitchen, Brand New Bathroom, Garage Parking, Rear Garden

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**HALESOWEN, VICTORIA ROAD**  
An unfurnished terrace property, close to local shops and transport links, briefly comprising of: Four Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Dining Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Driveway Parking

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**HALESOWEN, HAGLEY ROAD**  
Conveniently located in the centre of Halesowen, located above a hairdressers, improved to a high standard, comprising of: One Double Bedroom with En-Suite Bathroom and One Large Single Bedroom, Large Lounge with Hardwood Flooring, Large Fitted Kitchen with High Gloss Black Units, House Shower Room, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, No Parking, Unfurnished.

£575 PCM



**HALESOWEN, WHITEFRIARS DRIVE**  
An unfurnished or part furnished modern semi detached house close to town centre, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Driveway Parking, Gardens

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**HALESOWEN, HIGHFIELD ROAD**  
A three bedroom semi, ideally positioned in Colley Gate for transport links to Halesowen, Stourbridge and Merry Hill and also locally placed for Colley Lane Primary School catchment area. Comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, House Bathroom with a Shower Cubical, Driveway Parking and Garage at Rear, An Ideal Property for A First Time Renter

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**STOURBRIDGE, TURNEY ROAD**  
Located in a quiet cul-de-sac is this unfurnished semi detached house, comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Large Living Room, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, One Single Bedroom, Modern Bathroom with Shower, Large Rear Garden, Ample Driveway Parking, Close to all local amenities

£500 PCM



**NETHERTON, ROUND STREET**  
An unfurnished semi detached house, in a popular area, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Driveway Parking

£475 PCM



**UPPER GORNAL, TUDOR VALE**  
Unfurnished end mews house briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Two bedroom, Bathroom, Rear Garden, Parking Space

£475 PCM



**CRADLEY HEATH, CODSALL ROAD**  
Located in a popular area, close to shops and local train station, this is unfurnished and well maintained semi detached house, comprising of: Two Double Bedrooms, Modern Fitted Dining Kitchen, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, House Bathroom with Shower, Garage and Driveway Parking, Large Rear Garden

£475 PCM



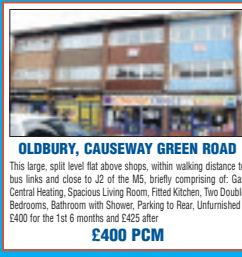
**HALESOWEN, BRETT YOUNG CLOSE**  
Situated within a few minutes walk of Halesowen Town Centre and local bus station for buses into Birmingham Town Centre is this well presented first floor apartment, comprising of: One Double Bedroom, Fitted Kitchen with Integrated Appliances, House Bathroom with Shower, Cosy Lounge, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating and One Allocated Parking Space.

£450 PCM



**CRADLEY HEATH, ARCHER GARDENS**  
An unfurnished ground floor maisonette, located close to shops and amenities, briefly comprising of: Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, House Shower, Parking Space

£425 PCM



**OLDBURY, CAUSEWAY GREEN ROAD**  
This large, split level flat above shops, within walking distance to bus links and close to J2 of the M5, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Spacious Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Parking to Rear, Unfurnished £400 for the 1st 6 months and £425 after

£400 PCM



**HALESOWEN, PIPPIN AVENUE**  
Located on this popular development of Homer Hill, Localised close to Cradley Heath train station, bus route to Halesowen and Merry Hill, Comprising of: One Double Bedroom, Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen, House Bathroom with Shower, A property not to be missed

£395 PCM



**HALESOWEN, APPERLEY WAY**  
Located on the popular development of Homer Hill Estate, is this spacious first floor apartment, briefly comprising of: Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Gardens, Allocated Parking

£375 PCM

# Dealing with some real slippery pests invading gardens

The persistent rain has brought slugs and snails out in their droves. HANNAH STEPHENSON looks at ways to contain these pests which thrive in warm, wet weather



Encourage predators like hedgehogs by leaving a patch of garden to grow wild as shelter

**THERE'S no doubt about it – slugs and snails are having a field day thanks to all the rain we've had, eating bedding plants, chomping on vegetables and munching their way through gardens nationwide.**

The more vigilant among us have been doing morning and evening patrols, picking off the slippery suckers before they wreak havoc with our prized plants and suitably disposing of them.

As slugs and snails are particularly rampant in my area, I have resorted to putting young leafy plants, which these pests love, in pots and either placing the pots on metal stands which slugs have trouble in climbing, or putting copper strips around the pots to deter them.

**Deter**  
The copper contains a minute electrical charge to deter the slug or snail. But even these have limited effectiveness.

**Secateurs**

The only way to get rid of them effectively (the squeamish perhaps shouldn't read on) is to do it with a pair of secateurs or pop them into a bag and bin them.

"I've seen figures that there are 15,000 slugs a year in an average garden," he adds. "That's a lot of secateur work."

They will travel great distances for a tasty morsel. Salisbury has seen evidence of slug damage on really tall clematis and on magnolia flowers – they will go up and down a tree in a night, he says.

Even now, the most effective method of reducing these slimy pests is to use slug pellets.

There are many types on the market, some of which are organic, but you'll need to reapply them regularly in rainy weather, when they will break down quickly.

Alternatively, invest in a

nematode biological control, a parasitic worm which works its way into the soil and will kill slugs underground, but may not be so effective on snails which tend to remain on the surface.

Nematode controls are available from mail order biological control suppliers and come as a powder which dilutes into water. The nematodes penetrate the slug's body and release bacteria to kill the slugs, and should last around six weeks.

Beer traps and copper tapes around pots may help to some extent, but they won't eliminate the problem.

"You will never totally eliminate slugs and snail damage in weather like this," he concludes, "but you can try to reduce the risk."

Encourage predators such as hedgehogs, frogs and toads into your garden by leaving a patch of wild area or installing a pond.

You can also encourage snail-eating birds such as thrushes into your garden by planting shrubs and trees which bear berries and create a nesting area.

Some slugs spend a lot of their time below soil level, feeding on bulbs, tubers including potatoes and roots. Snails are much less active in winter, but slugs will feed whatever the weather.

You could also plant sacrificial crops such as lettuce, which slugs love, to distract them from the crops you really value.

If you don't want an endless battle with these slimy creatures, the best way is to plant species which they don't like, such as hardy cranesbill geraniums, hydrangea, pinks, hebes, potentilla, lavatera and plants with hairy or narrow leaves, or succulent types such as sedum.

Andrew Salterton is a senior entomologist

More than 15,000 pests can invade an average garden in a year

# MOTORING NEWS AND REVIEWS

# CHRONICLE

# MOTORING

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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

## New arrival is aiming to make a big impact on the sector

**PLEASE do drive some of our opposition, was the invitation at the UK launch of the latest Volvo – the V40.**

And there alongside rows of gleaming new V40s waiting to be tested were others in the hotly contested C segment in the UK. Now that takes some bottle and a lot of confidence in your product. The com-

**By Sharon Walters**



pany must be absolutely sure motoring journalists will be impressed or be so stunned they are beaten into submission.

Well in my humble opinion, Volvo got it just right and we were impressed, or at least I was.

Volvo is putting a lot into its attack on the segment where the top five – Ford Focus, VW Golf, Vauxhall Astra, Audi A3 and BMW 1

Series – account for 66

per cent of total sales.

Duncan Forrester,

Volvo's head of public

affairs, says the

marque only has

to take five per

cent of these

customers to sell

10,000 units a year.

And he believes it will take

more.

"There is space for a new entrant in this marketplace and we believe this car has what it takes to make inroads into it," he said.

This all-new car comes with new and improved features from the larger family members and includes City Safety as standard, collision warning and pedestrian detection on the safety front along with the world's first pedestrian airbag fitted as standard, which is the next step towards the manufacturer's target that no-one should be killed or injured in a new Volvo by 2020.

### Sporty

There are three different diesel engines, and three petrol engines. They include a 1.6 diesel, which gives a class-leading CO<sub>2</sub> figure of 94g/km (equivalent to 78.5mpg on the combined cycle), a sporty 177hp 2.0-litre five-cylinder diesel, and the high performance T5 petrol, good for 254hp.

All engine and gearbox versions have start/stop technology, to boost economy and reduce emissions.

The hatchback will be available in ES, SE and SE LUX trim with Bluetooth fitted as standard across the range.

Company car users will benefit from strong benefit in kind (BIK) figures, with the V40 D2 at £43 and £55 for 20 per cent and 40 per cent tax payers respectively.

The V40 D2 offers the best BIK figures of all the premium five-door hatchbacks, beating the BMW 116d ED (£45 and £90) and the Audi A3 1.6 TDI (£48 and £97).

The entry level ES comes with a large number of features as standard, including Volvo's innovative City Safety technology; the world's first pedestrian airbag; Bluetooth with music streaming; high performance audio with 5in colour display screen; Electronic Climate Control; 16in Matres alloy wheels; Dynamic Stability and Traction Control; power windows; leather steering wheel and gearknob; and textile floor mats.

Inside it is stylish and well laid out with plenty of driver and passenger space and the boot isn't bad – let's face it Volvos have never had the best capacity or usability but this is OK.

Outside it is lean, low and wide and is certainly elegant. It is particularly eye-catching from the back and at the front

has good, heavy creases, attractive headlamps and tidy grille.

Most buyers today take careful note of residual values and Volvo has tried to make them attractive. One of the actions it has taken is to reduce the number of single options as they do not often transfer into a higher re-sale value, and group them together as 'packs' which are more desirable and attract higher re-sale values.

And the signs are already good from the experts.

"We believe the car will be a success, and our residual value forecasts are at a similar level to VW Golf, ahead of the current Audi A3 Sportback, and just behind the BMW 1 series," said Andrew Mee, senior managing pricing risk, Lex Autolease.

"The V40 is an attractive model which provides an improved driving experience over any previous Volvo. The suspension offers control without feeling overly firm. Refinement levels are good, complemented by a high quality interior with the usual comfortable Volvo seats."

Says it all.

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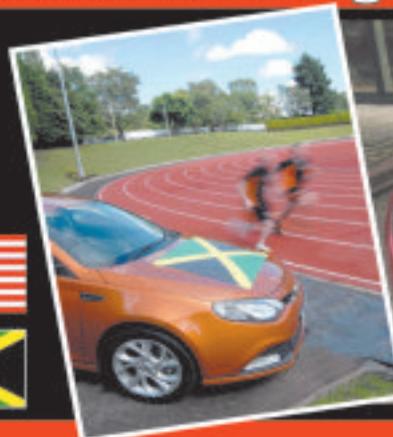
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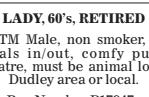
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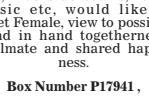
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PAIGNTON HOBURNE 2 / 3 Bed Caravans In/Out/Door Pools, Club, Great Prices 01763 601762

WANTED - Modern 2-4 berth touring caravan, good condition, around £10,000.

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On a quite attractive site on The River Avon, 4 miles from Tewkesbury. Fishing and Boating. Site does not flood.

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**ATLAS PARK LODGE**, 3-bed. Aberecon, site fees paid till March, non-smoking inc decking. Quick sale. 29,995. 07813 121670.

**ATLAS SAPPHIRE SUPER** 2005, 6 berth static caravan, 35ft x 12ft, with central heating, double glazing, excellent condition, on small site, near Tre-garon, Wales. Fees paid until 2013.

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**BK BLUEBIRD CONTESSA** 1999 2bed, six berth, 32x12ft Static Caravan, fridge/ freezer, tv etc, good condition, side veranda, bargain. £1,950. 01626 66711.

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**SPRITE MAJOR XL** 1991, good condition, extras, 6 berth £995. 07989 367280.

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£1,200 o.n.o. 07969 576890.

**WILLERBY 32 X 12FT** 6 berth, Llanbrynmair, Mid Wales, quiet site, 2 fish pools and 20 minutes to the coast. Rent included. £3,500.

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**TRIGANO TRIBUTE** 2006, 6 berth, 36,000 miles, tax and MoT May 2013, full shower, bike rack, camping package. £19,500 o.n.o. 01630 652872.



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**14.3HH TRADITIONAL** Show cob, 3 year old coloured filly, broken and riding out beautifully, outstanding attitude and temperament, very mature for her age. £1,950 o.n.o. 07749 333532.

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**GARDEN** gate, timber, as new, 6ft X 3ft, heavy duty arch top, cos £95. 01902 745598.

**COTSWOLD ONE** A tall, one piece, garden arch. Telephone 01922 453748.

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**HANGING BASKETS** and tubs, from £2.50, also chrysanthemum plants. 01902 762500.

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**LARGE SHED** 25ft x 13ft. Nine months old. Still as new. Bargain at £1,000. 07917 647598. Wolverhampton.

**RIDE ON LAWNMOWER** Atco 24ins with ride on roller, good condition. £300. 01785 261161 or 07747 882956.

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**Wag Tail Walkies** Wag Tail Walkies Ltd, 01944 221144.

**PET MINDER & dog walker**

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Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its mother.

2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.

3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.

Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

**BABY MINI LOP** Rabbits, half price, £100.00 each. £20 each. Dudley area. 07031 884241.

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**BEAUTIFUL KITTENS**, ready now, litter trained and wormed, £10. Telephone 07967 305712.

**WILLERBY 32 X 12FT** 6 berth, Llanbrynmair, Mid Wales, quiet site, 2 fish pools and 20 minutes to the coast. Rent included. £3,500.

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**BLUE STAFFIE** Puppies, top black and tan, dogs, two bitches, ready now. £550.00. Tel: 07850 083410 after 5pm.

**BORDER COLLIE** pups, various colours, dogs/bitches, vacc, excellent nature. 07966 442888.

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**CAIRN TERRIER** Pedigree, nine weeks old, microchipped, 1st injection, very loving. £385 o.n.o. 01384 860190 / 07526 430718.

**CAVICHON PUPPY** grand little, KC reg. ready now. £200. 07905 831760.

**CHICKEN** house 3x3ft. Run 6x3ft, sturdy, viewing recommended, extras. £180 o.n.o. 01902 750827.

**CHIHUAHUA** bitch puppy, 3 months, KC reg. long coat. Shifnal, 07788 210727.

**COCKER SPANIEL PUPS** 2 girls, 1 month, KC reg. red/black. 1st vacce given. KC reg. ready now. 07989 499483 / 01299 871877.

**COCKER** spaniel pups, 8 weeks old, blue/orange roan, wormed, deflead, £350. 07906 831760.

**FLINT** A one year old rescue blue Staffie cross Weimaraner, needs loving home, good with others dogs and older kids, very friendly.

**HOME CHECK REQUIRED** 01922 627013.

**FOUR COLLIE CROSS** puppies, three girls, one boy, ready soon, £200. 07875 021342.

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LADY widow, 58, slim, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks smart, intelligent, easygoing man with GSOH who enjoys conversations, days out, short breaks, meals out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387247

SALLY slim attractive feisty redhead, intelligent, easygoing, WLTM similar male for friendship and more, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393469

WIDOW 70, genuine, kind, caring, laidback, seeking male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387013

EASYGOING down to earth female, likes cooking, exploring new things in life, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386893

LADY young, 60, outgoing, friendly, smart, likes cinema, shopping, meals out, seeks similar female friends for days out and evenings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375789

PATRICIA 5ft 5ins, red hair, blue eyes, likes nights out, meals, clubs, seeking nice young man who is kind, generous to look after me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378078

ATTRACTIVE slim blonde, 45, seeks honest, caring, genuine male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392807

SLIM 32y old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 339373

MORAG 21yr old attractive dark haired student nurse, new to area and very lonely seeks mature male for mutual companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391078

JENNY blue eyed cuddly independent female, loves countryside, animals, cooking, WLTM older male to spoil and look after. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375798

MADELINE 5ft black seeks male 26-41 with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375799

PATRICIA 5ft 5ins, red hair, blue eyes, likes nights out, meals, clubs, seeking nice young man who is kind, generous to look after me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391308

LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, average looks, likes reading, meals out, cinema, theatre, quiet pubs, honest, genuine, kind, caring, GSOH, seeks male, 42-58. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393513

FEMININE caring, young, mid 60's N/S woman, varied interests, seeks genuine, loyal male of similar age to share togetherness and LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392913

DAVE 47, well built, divorced, 2 children, WLTM lady of similar age for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393789

DON 55, 5ft 5ins, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks lady, any age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392100

SFT 6ins male, blue eyes, generous, likes a drink, cinema, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392094

GOOD looking male, brown hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, seeks female for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392092

HONEST loyal male, 64, seeks lady for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393759

MATTHEW 5ft 3ins, medium build, good body, seeking fit female for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393743

SHAPELY attractive, light skinned black female, 39, seeks attractive, fit, male, 30's, builder type, tanned, rugged for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 231152

DIONNE 5ft 3ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, medium build, 42, single mum, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393559

POLLY dark hair, 50, attractive, outgoing, seeks special outgoing male for days out etc. Telford. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 371127

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367204

FARMER'S granddaughter, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883

KAREN witty female who loves to laugh, WLTM similar male to share interests, romance, cosy nights in and more. Pls call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393279

CARING lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883

BETTY fuller figured black female, 26, body confident, affectionate, WLTM older chocolate loving male for daytime meets. Any status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392933

KATHY caring lady, 60, medium build, smoker, seeks caring, smart male 55-65 for companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 374773

51YR old male, 6ft, dark hair, single parent, likes most things, sports, seeks slim, honest, caring female for relationship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391833

MALE 58, youthful, serene nature, understanding, loyal, honest, seeks similar mature female for a lasting relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391833

32YR old slim, dark haired male, adventurous, creative, likes music, walks, cycling, photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391626

GOOD looking 39yr old male, likes pub, music, walks, swimming, seeks nice female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391849

MALE 44, seeking male, 18-23 for fun relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391626

BI male, divorced, young, fit 50+, good condition, seeks male, 18-45 for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391626

MALE 58, youthful, serene nature, understanding, loyal, honest, seeks similar mature female for a lasting relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391833

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## Cupboard meeting Bolt from the blue

LOUISE HAZEL has swept away any pre-Olympic tension – after being cornered in a cupboard by Usain Bolt.

The sprint star – who won three golds in Beijing four years ago – got lost at the team's training camp in Birmingham when he ran into Birchfield Harrier Hazel.

The Jamaican track and field team are training at the University of Birmingham as part of their preparations for the London 2012 Games, which starts tomorrow.

On the eve of the Greatest Show on Earth, heptathlete Hazel insisted her surprise meeting with the 100m world record holder helped her keep it in perspective.

"I bumped into Usain Bolt last week and he followed me into a cupboard," said the 26-year-old.

"He thought it was the toilet so we had a little giggle and I sent him on his way. He was a nice guy, down to earth and it was great to see him there because he's a massive inspiration."

"We didn't really talk that much as I thought I'd leave him to get on with his training."

### Direction

"There were a lot of spectators just milling around and it can become quite invasive so I just pointed him in the right direction."

The reigning Commonwealth Games champion is part of a 10-strong group of Birchfield Harriers selected for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Nine – including Darlaston Dart, Mark Lewis-Francis – have been picked for Team GB with Ingmar Vos selected by the Netherlands and Hazel insisted it showed the Stags are the country's best.

She said: "It's brilliant for the club. I'm extremely proud to be affiliated with them."

"They've been extremely proactive in building up the Games and getting extra sponsorship for the athletes."

"They've put a lot of work in over the last two or three years."

"I can't speak for every club in the country but I think Birchfield are leading the way."

Hazel is joined by favourite Jessica Ennis and Katarina Johnson-Thompson in the heptathlon and jetted to Portugal with the Team GB track and field team for their final training camp.



Ryan Cockbill with shooting medals

# Flame burns twice for shooter

IT'S one down and one to go for Great Barr shooter Ryan Cockbill.

He carried the Olympic torch through Birmingham earlier this month.

And the 22-year-old marksman is one of a handful of people lucky enough to have been chosen to carry both the Olympic and Paralympic flames this summer.

Cockbill is likely to compete in R4 (standing) and R5 (prone) target shooting at the Royal Artillery Barracks, and is an outside bet for a medal after recording two top 10 finishes at

### Shooting

the recent Shooting World Cup, in Stoke Mandeville.

"I'm aiming first and foremost to enjoy the experience because it's going to be a really good competition, a really tough competition," said Cockbill, who suffered a spinal cord injury in a shallow pool accident causing paralysis from the chest down in 2006.

"It'll be difficult to make the final but I'll give it a good go."

"You see similar faces in all of the big competitions as well as

qualifying competitions, and you get used to facing certain opponents. The Koreans are very strong, so are the Chinese – these are the nations to beat."

Cockbill, who also made the final eight at the IPC Shooting World Cup in Turkey, says his confidence has been boosted by his form going into a home Games.

"Around 20 to 30 people competed and they were some of the top shooters in the world, so two top 10 finishes is great preparation," said Cockbill.

"It's all going the right way at

the moment. I picked up a bronze medal in my previous international event in America at the end of 2011."

"I also made the final of a qualifying event in Australia – I finished sixth in that."

"The demands involved with shooting are massive, it really is a full time thing. I spent nearly two weeks in both Australia and America. It's nothing like a holiday either, although I can see why people might think that. The reality though, is just airports, hotels and then out on the range shooting."

### Eastbourne 54 Birmingham 38

BIRMINGHAM were left empty-handed on their travels as they went down to a 16-point defeat at play-off rivals Eastbourne.

It was a lop-sided showing from the Selby Brummies at Arlington with middle-order duo Danny King and Ben Barker in fine form, but support lacking from both the top and bottom of the order.

Bjarne Pedersen was unable to shine on his old home circuit and Sebastian Ulamek also struggled and it was the Eagles who gave the more solid all-round performance.

Barker, though, was a big bright spot, the Cornishman beaten in only one of his five rides. Unfortunately for the Brummies, that came when he was going for double points in his third outing.

King was more successful when he took a tactical ride in Heat 12, but it was largely damage limitation as at that stage Eastbourne led 42-23.

The home side had taken control with successive 5-1s in heats four, five and six and following a 4-2 to the visitors in heat seven another burst of Eagles scoring followed with three more 5-1s in four races only interrupted by a Simon Gustafsson fall in the ninth.

King's tactical ride win gave Brummies a faint hope of salvaging a league point, but Pedersen and Ulamek conceded maximum points in Heat 13 as the home side made sure of all three.

**Eastbourne:** Timo Lahti 12+, Joonas Kylmäkorpi 10+, Lewis Bridger 10+, Cameron Woodward 9, Lukas Dryml 8+1, Simon Gustafsson 4+, Denis Gitzel 4+, 1+

**Birmingham:** Danny King 14, Ben Barker 10+, Bjarne Pedersen 4+, Josh Auty 4, Tomasz Piszczek 2+, Martin Smolinski 2, Sebastian Ulamek 2.

# Helen takes her place in elite Olympic band

HALESOWEN'S Helen Scott is one of an elite band – an able-bodied athlete eligible to win a Paralympic medal.

Scott is a Paralympic tandem pilot for the Team GB cycling team and is aiming to guide her pairing to glory.

With visually impaired star Aileen McGlynn – a three-times Paralympic gold medallist – on board, Scott's job is to steer and go hell for leather on the pedals.

She first joined British Cycling as an under-23 Sprint Academy rider in 2008 and moved to the GB Para-Cycling Team in 2010 at the request of coach Chris Furber.

It was a tough choice for 22-year-old Scott and she needed convincing to give up her individual dreams – but now wouldn't swap her role for the world.

### Medal

"We're the only able-bodied athletes in the Paralympics who get a medal because we affect the outcome of the race," said Scott, who will ride in the one-kilometre and three-kilometre races.

"The running guys with the blind runners don't get one, because they are just there to guide them."

"People ask if I have to do anything but we're athletes as well. We train as much and we both have to pedal but I have to steer as well; I'm a cyclist too."

"And I really feel this is what I'm meant to be doing. I love riding tandem. I miss elements of riding solo sometimes, it can get a bit frustrating if you feel the other person isn't doing as

much but it's still great."

"After I'd been in the programme about a year my coach came to me and said I'd be a really good pilot."

"At first I said no because I still wanted to ride my own bike, I still wanted to do it on my own."

"I had seen the tandem riders and trained with them but never thought about giving it a go."

"Chris asked again and I got on the bike with one of the lads who is going to London (Neil Fachie) and he made it really easy for me. As soon as I got on it loved it."

"It was a hard transition. Before it was short, snappy bursts but now it's more endurance."

"That was a real change as I was more of a sprinter and when we do the 3km I still find it hard even though we train for it."

The former Earls High School pupil had to leave her sport, PE and coaching science course at Birmingham University after just two weeks to accept her place on the British Cycling programme.

### Rider Hughes fights cramp and tyre problem



Bradley Hughes, 15, competing at Brands Hatch. Picture: Mike Lawrence, www.superbikesnapper.co.uk

HALESOWEN teenager Bradley Hughes rode through cramp to claim eighth place in round seven of the 125cc Monster Energy British Moto-star Cup at Brands Hatch.

The 15-year-old also took 12th place in the full British Championship section of the race. Hughes' team was

forced to replace a problem piston and also opted for a harder compound tyre in final qualifying.

At the start of the 12-lap race, he got away to a good start and was soon up to 10th. But as the race wore on the grip from his rear tyre went off.

Hughes persevered and just got his

front wheel ahead on the last lap to cross the line ahead of Harry Hartley.

After round seven of the Motostar Cup Hughes is eighth and in the main British Championship is 15th. The next round is at Cadwell Park in Lincolnshire over the August Bank Holiday weekend of August 25-27.

# Quigley is forced out

LUKE QUIGLEY was forced to sit out both British Superbike races at Brands Hatch due to injuries sustained in a crash during qualifying.

The GB Moto Honda rider suffered a mild concussion and soft tissue damage after a spectacular high-side and the decision was made not to race.

The Brierley Hill racer was just three laps into Saturday's qualifying period when he went down heavily at Westfield and withdrew from racing.



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## Roynon is ready for his biggest 48 hours

HEATHENS speedway skipper Adam Roynon is facing up to the biggest 48 hours of his career.

Roynon has been a revelation for the former Cradley club this season and has led them to the top of the National League table.

The Heathens are also on the verge of reaching the Knockout Cup final. They hold a 28-point lead over the Isle of Wight as they prepare for the semi-final, second leg on August 9 at the Smallbrook Stadium, Ryde.

Roynon is now getting ready for the British Final at Wolverhampton next Monday. The following night, on the same track, he will start as one of the clear favourites as the Heathens stage the FAST Golden Hammer.

He said: "It's a massive meeting, the Golden Hammer, and it is a privilege to be riding in it."

"I have also got the British Final here before that so I am a little nervous about that one."

"Hopefully, I can get some big scalps in that British Final and it will set me up nicely to win the Golden Hammer on Tuesday. Home track advantage will be very important for me."

## Opposition left crushed by Heathens

Isle of Wight 29  
Dudley Heathens 61

RAMPANT Dudley made it nine National League wins out of nine with this crushing victory at Ryde.

The Islanders' big circuit can be a challenge for visitors, with the Heathens' title rivals Mildenhall the only other winners there so far this season.

But Dudley blasted out of the blocks and had the match effectively wrapped up after seven races when leading 31-11.

And although the Islanders provided four heat winners in the second half of the meeting, the home side could not put a dent in Dudley's serene progress.

Skipper Adam Roynon reeled off a four-ride maximum, throwing in a National League track record as late as heat 11.

Isle of Wight: Kyle Hughes 10, Ben Hopwood 6, Paul Starke 4+1, Mark Bassett 2, Matt Goss 2, Danny Warwick 2, Aaron Basby 1.

Dudley: Tom Perry 14, Adam Roynon 12, Byron Bekker 10+4, James White-Williams 9+1, Ashley Morris 7+1, Daryl Ritchings 5+3, Dan Green 4+1.

## Yacob will bring an added dimension

by Steve Madeley

ALBION have completed the deal for Claudio Yacob – with boss Steve Clarke backing the new-boy to add an extra dimension to the club's midfield.

Clarke maintains the new Baggies signing is ready for the Premier League battle.

The Baggies announced the free transfer of the 25-year-old this week from the former Racing Club de Avellaneda captain penning a three-year contract with the option of a fourth season.

And head coach Clarke immediately tipped the Argentina international to be a success in England.

The new signing was returning to

England with the club today after they ended their pre-season spell in Sweden and Denmark.

Clarke said: "I looked at the kind of players we've got and I wanted something a little bit different."

"Claudio is a typical Argentinian No.5, which is more of a holding midfielder."

"I hesitate to use the word 'defensive' because that's not correct. He can make positive passes as well."

"But he's in the group to give us some-

thing different to the midfield players we've already got and I think those who have watched him from the sidelines in Sweden will have seen that he's got some qualities."

"You don't get capped for Argentina if you don't have qualities. Don't underestimate his power either. He is tough enough."

"The Argentinian League is a tough league and the players are tough."

"I have high hopes for him and I'm sure he will adapt quickly."

"He has shown a good mentality in training already."

"It's difficult that he hasn't got the lan-

guage yet so he'll have to crack on with his

English and I'll maybe have to learn a few words of Spanish to help him in training."

Yacob will probably sit out Saturday's trip to Barnsley as he works on his fitness.

"Physically he's a little bit behind the group," said Clarke.

"We have three weeks from this Saturday before the season starts."

Captain Chris Brunt flew home last weekend for treatment on a calf strain.

But Clarke is hopeful the Northern Ireland winger will be back in full training next week.

"It's not a big concern," said Clarke. "It's not ideal but it's nothing major."

## Icy defeat after heat of summer afternoon

Old Hill 189-5, Ombersley 195-4. Ombersley won by six wickets

OLD HILL suffered a defeat at Ombersley on the first hot day of the summer.

Winning the toss, Ombersley put Old Hill into bat in the Birmingham League Division One fixture.

Old Hill had a hard time of it with the bat, but Nitesh Patel spurred on the team with a splendid 95 to push the total to 189-5.

After tea Ombersley impressed despite losing captain Ollie Steele for two to Seb Soukup.

Duncan Catterall made 77 not out and despite 3-51 from Nigel Davenport they got home in the 44th over.

**Old Hill 242, Harborne 177-7. Draw**

Stand-in skipper Shezad Aslam had a day to remember, opening for the seconds and scoring 132. His innings was a major factor in the total of 242, Harborne's John Dyer taking 5-52.

Old Hill made inroads with the ball, but the visitors finished on 177-7 to secure the draw. There were two wickets apiece for Dan Such and Mitchell Jeffery.

The thirds' home match with Bromsgrove was abandoned due to an unplayable pitch. Astwood Bank conceded their match with Old Hill fourths.

## Halesowen take third friendly

Alvechurch 1 Halesowen T 2  
HALESOWEN took their third win in five pre-season friendlies.

The Veltz have also beaten Bartley Green and Bromsgrove Sporting, while going down to Redditch United and Solihull.

First-half goals from Ben Smith and Reece Cotterill put them clear.

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## Tyred out

Hughes hampered by a loss of grip

**Page 35**



## Hot stuff

The flame burns twice for Ryan

**Page 35**



e-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

# JESS IS A NATURAL SAYS PROUD FATHER

**CYCLING star Jess Varnish goes for Olympics glory with her father Jim describing her as a natural talent.**

Varnish, of Halesowen Cycling Club, never needed an expensive bike when growing up.

Her red wheels would screech around the corner from her home in Bromsgrove – a sneak preview to a career which now reaches the London Games.

As a youngster, the star would pester Jim – the 1985 cycle speedway world champion – to go with him on his meets.

And when Jess competed herself, she blitzed the competition – something which showed her father she would be a star.

"We didn't buy her an expensive bike, she used to use my wheels when she was big enough," said Jim.

"She won the National Roller Championship on a bike I put together with bits and pieces from the garage. Kids there were turning up with bikes which cost £2,000 to £3,000 and she annihilated them."

**Flashy**  
"They would turn up on flashy bikes but we just made sure the tyres were good."

"Some would give up. At one event they just went home once they saw how fast she was going."

"She was a natural athlete. She used to come and watch me race. Before I went Jess always used to say 'can I come?' and it was a natural thing for her to do."

And Jess herself believes her father's experience was invaluable when she first started going to Halesowen Cycling Club aged 12.

She said: "He's been a huge influence."

"To have my dad there as I was growing up to look up to, see what he was doing – that's why I got into cycling."

"He taught me how to ride a bike when I was quite young so I managed to pick it up OK."

Varnish junior is a lifetime member of HCC and regularly returns to her old haunt.

"Dad definitely keeps me grounded and when I go home it's just like anything else really."

"I've got two younger sisters and they help to keep me on the ground as well, obviously," said Varnish, who is joined in Team GB by Halesowen's Paralympic tandem pilot Helen Scott.

"I try to get back when I can and it's nice to be with the kids at the club."

"It's nice they can see someone who has been raised at Halesowen since they were five or six-years-old because it shows they can do it themselves."

Varnish and sprint partner Victoria Pendleton are favourites in their event.

Jim believes the pair will dominate.

"They can go faster, there's more in the tank from both of them," he said.



Jess Varnish and father Jim at the Manchester Velodrome back in 2005 when the cycling star was just 15

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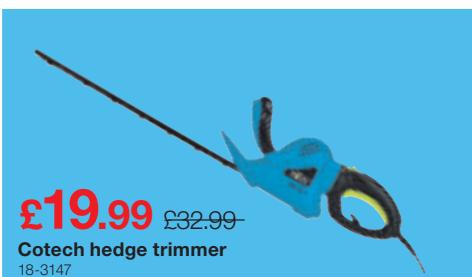
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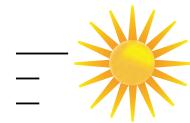
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